



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

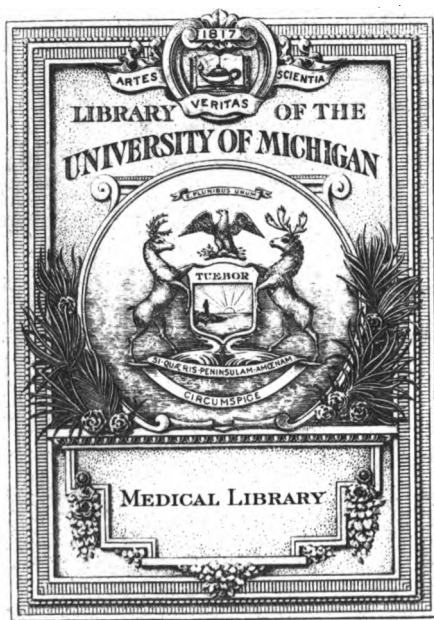
Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



75  
75  
75  
25



610.5

W92

J8

J







THE  
NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

~~~~~  
"Seize upon Truth, wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."  
~~~~~

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D.,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.



~~~~~  
VOLUME I.  
~~~~~

WORCESTER:  
PUBLISHED BY CALVIN NEWTON, M. D.  
No. 1, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets.  
1847.

WORCESTER:  
PRINTED BY SAMUEL CHISM,  
218 Main Street, Up Stairs.

Medical  
F. M. Thomas  
1-1-43  
47103  
v.1

## PREFACE.

---

THE present volume is nominally the first of the Journal, but really the second volume of our Paper,—it being published, during the year 1846, under the name of the Eclectic. The manner and spirit in which it has been conducted, have received many favorable notices. Its patronage has been steadily increasing; and its present circulation, not only in New England but in the South and the West, is somewhat extensive. As, however, the cost of each volume is not inconsiderable, the work needs a still more extensive patronage. At the middle of the present year, it will be seen, it has been enlarged, by putting all the advertisements on the cover, and occupying the sixteen pages with matter which is worthy of permanent preservation. We trust our friends will, hereafter, not be content with mere verbal expressions of approbation, but that they will give us *substantial* evidence of interest in the cause which we have espoused, by greatly extending the list of our subscriptions. All we ask of any individual is, that he will sacrifice a hundredth or a thousandth part as much as we have done, for the past two years, to help forward objects of common interest.

EDITOR.

# INDEX.

---

Arsenic	50
Approaching Lecture Term	68
Act to Incorporate the Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute of Virginia	131
Allopathy—Beauties of	143
Allopathy Exemplified	169
Allopathic Abuse—Defence Against	222, 240
Annual Announcement	325
Allopathic Candor	351
Allopathy and the Botanic Practice	361
Allopathic Prejudice	367
Black Cohush	9
Bitter Herbs	25
Botanic Practice—Efficacy of	48
Bleeding and Calomel	61
Blood and Brain	62
Botanico-Medical College	114
Butterfield—Dr. John	140
Beach—Dr.—and Beachism	153
Botany	201, 217
Butterfield—Dr.—again	229
Botanic Medical Convention	237
Botanic Remedies Efficacious	257
Bathing—Antiquity of	275
Botanic Practice	342
Bowels—Inflammation of	344
Bankston—Prof.—Reply to	358
Change	9
Cedar—Virtues of	36
Clinique—Medical and Surgical	47, 68, 84
Co-operation	51
Call for more Laborers	58
Cures—Way to Work	76
Calomel and Reform—Dr. Cox on	79
Catamenial Metastasis	96
Correction	105
Cathartics	137
Call for a Physician	143
Comings' Sarsaparilla	163, 295
Comings—Dr.	172
Cathartics—Modus Operandi of	188
Connecticut Botanic Medical Society—12th Annual Meeting of	191
Colby—Dr.—again	205
Contemplated Convention	215
Contemplated Botanic Convention	230

Compounds	230
Correction	248
Comfort—Dr.—on Thomsonism	265
Croup—Cold Water in	270
Calomel	273
Cold Water a Tonic	292
Complementary	293
Contrast	329
Canker and Typhus Fever—Case of	336
Chronic Rheumatism—Ague	362
Charter—our Petitions for	382
Delirium Tremens	286
Dental Ingenuity	356
Encouraging	13, 139, 267
Explanation	98
Eclectic Medical College in Virginia	101
Enlargement	212
Editorial	214
Encouragement	225
Enteritis—Case of	257
Eupatorium Purpureum	335
Every Man at his Post	354
Explanations	373
Explanation—Dr. Bassett's	377
Fever—Indian Cure for	83
Fever Maltreated	123
Fever—Typhus Congestive	207
Fits and Rickets successfully Treated by Dr. R. Herbert	208
Fascination—Notes on	284
Freak of Nature	313
Fever	341
Flourney—J. J. Esq.	360
Killed by Lobelia	251
Good's Family Flora	29
Gangrene—Sanguinaria Canadensis in	34
German Medical Authors	279
Hippocrates on Temperance	35
Hultus Pultus Pulteratus	75
Human Magnetism	76, 292
Human Skin	82
Hepatic Abscess—an Interesting Case	146
Homœopathy	215
Homœopathy—Success of	262
Hydropathy	278
Herb Tea	290
Interesting Incident	42
Indian Women—Health and Hardihood of	84
Introductory Lecture	90, 173
Important Movement in Connecticut	161
Important Discovery	171, 280
Interesting Co-operation	276
Incontinence of Urine Dr. King on. Eneuresis	348
Influence of Opium	364

Letter—Dr. Staple's	14
Letter from Dr. Dickens	26
Letter—Dr. Churchill's	44
Lacteal Metastasis	49
Liriodendron Tulipifera	57, 304
Lobelia—Modus Operandi of	66, 129
Letter—Dr. Eaton's	74
Legislative Liberality	105, 350
Lectures on Physiology	125
Liberty and Equality	146
Lobelia	232, 293, 311, 321, 340, 357
Let us go on unto Perfection	246
Living by Rule	288
Lobelia—Erroneous Notions of	301
Lungs—Structure of	355
Lobelia—Properties of. Is it a Narcotic ?	369
Macrotrys Racemosa	9
Midwifery—New Work on	20
Miscellaneous Recipes	20, 36, 148, 172, 196
Mercury—Modus Operandi of	44
Medical Union	65
Magnolia Acuminata	73
Mind—Independent Existence of	77
Medical Lectures	85
Medical Paper—the Advantages of Sustaining	99
Milk for the People	115
Maltreatment—Dropsy Cured	193
Metastasis	228
Mortification of the Cheeks, etc.—Case of	233
Medical Institute of Virginia—Proposed Courtesy of	277
Medical College in Worcester	381
Nursing Children	15
New Arrangement	89
New England Botanico-Medical College	98, 302
No Amalgamation	117
Northampton Water-Cure	211
Nervous Fits	299
New Disease	306
Notice to Subscribers	374
New England Thomsonian Depot	381
Osteo Sarcoma	17
Our College Prospects	108
Our Cause	121
Our Principles	127
Our Lecture Term—its Close	213
Our Medical College	274
Ox Gall—Efficacy of in Removing Impacted Fæces	378
Old and New Practice	379
Poplar	57, 304
Poisons not Medicines	60, 132
Physiology—Animal and Mental	64
Pure Medicines	116
Pulmonary Complaints	145



Peritonitis, or Inflammation of the Peritoneum	159
Pleuritis or Pleurisy	209
Poisons cannot be Medicines	247
Poisons—Remarks on	254
Poisons—Old-School Testimony against	271
Professional Courtesy	291
Parsley Leafed Yellow Root	294
Polypus Nasi—Polypus of the Nose	331
Practitioner's Success	334
Query	276
Rudbeckia Purpurea—Cock up Hat	41
Reply—Dr. Comings' to Dr. Staple's Letter	59
Reader to all their Dues	144
Recommendation	292
Reports	312
Remarks by Prof. Comings—Review of	314
Recipe	332
Reformed Practice of Medicine—Testimony in favor of, by Dr. Bassett	333
Request	333
Rhus Glabum—Sumach	303
Sarsaparilla—Extract of	11
Suggestions	11
Sulphuric Ether—the New Discovery	32
Spinal Disease—Remarkable Cures of	63
Southern Contributors	101
Solicitations	116
Southern Botanico-Medical College	117
Southern Co-operation	232
Ship Fever	236
Salivation in Fever,—Remarks on	260, 268, 319, 345
Southern B. M. College	263
Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute of Virginia	272
Sciatica, or Rheumatism of the Hip Joint—Case of	231
Superfætation	283
Still-born Infants—Resuscitation of—by means of Cold Water	287
Ship or Typhus Fever—Case of	297
Surgery by Steam and Lobelia	307
Slow Progress of Reforms	308
Secretions	323
Sago Pudding	356
Surgical Case at the Battle of Buena Vista	372
Suggestion to Subscribers	382
Sumach	383
Toothache—Preservation of the Teeth	61
To our Southern Botanic Patrons	100
True Quackery	109
Thomsonism	113
To the Thomsonians in Maine	163
Tully—Prof.—on Lobelia	252
Typhoid Fever	264
Throat—Scrofulous Ulceration of	301
Tulip Tree	304
Typhus Fever and Erysipelas	338

Too Bad	339
Tobacco-Antispasmodic	352
Things as they Should Be	375
Typhus Fever	376
To our Southern Subscribers	383
Union is Strength	360
Voice from Newburyport	125
Voice from the Interior of the Old Bay State	126
Virginia Eclectic Medical Institute	133
Vital Principle	185
Vital Principle Reviewed	226
Vital Principle once more	249
Virginia Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute	276
Vinegar—Results of the Abuse of	356
Virginia Institute	360
Vaccination	383
Virginia Institute—Clinique in	384
Water in Food	68
Wild Cucumber	73
Worcester Medical College—our Legislature, etc.	141
Worcester Botanical-Medical College	164
Xanthorhiza Apiifolia	294

# NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., JANUARY 1, 1847. No. 1.

---

## THE CHANGE.

In accordance with the advice of numerous friends, we have deemed it most for the interest of our paper and for the public good, to adopt a change of name. Our subscribers will, therefore, bear in mind, that the first No. of the 2d Vol. of the Eclectic which they have received is *at our expense*. We now look to them only for *the dollar* in advance for the Journal. Those who have already paid for the 2d Vol. of the Eclectic we have credited for the Volume of the Journal for 1847. [Ed. Jour.]

---

## MACROTRYS RACEMOSA—BLACK COHUSH.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

This plant has received various names, such as rattle root, black snake-root, squaw root, rich weed, &c.; but all our authors agree in giving it some valuable medicinal virtues.

The macrotrys racemosa is an herbaceous plant, about from three to five feet in height. The leaves are decomposed, oblong, ovate; racemes very long; blossoms white; fruit dry and flat. The root is perennial, black, with a caudex, and many long fibres. The plant blossoms in June and July, and is found in almost all the States, on rich hill-sides.

It is considered astringent, diuretic, sudorific, anodyne, and tonic. It is an Indian remedy, and much used in rheumatism; also, to facilitate childbirth;—hence, its name, *squaw root*. It is to its *emmenagogue* properties that I wish to call the attention of the readers of the Journal, though I have full confidence in its virtues, as above specified.

Thomson remarks, that this article is "very useful in various affections of the uterus, and consumption of the lungs, on account of its

stimulating and expectorating qualities. - For convulsions occasioned by periodical *uterine* difficulties, this is a valuable remedy." A similar recommendation of this plant is given, by Dr. Howard, who also adds, that it "has acquired the greatest celebrity as a cure for coughs and consumptions." It also has astringent qualities which make it valuable in the bowel complaints of children. But its action on the uterus makes it one of the most valuable remedies in our *Materia Medica*.

In a Practice of six years, I have never known it to fail in producing the desired effect, *in all cases* of parturition, and *in every instance* of simple obstructed menstruation.

In dysmenorrhœa, and *other* uterine affections of a complicated character, it is also very beneficial; yet *general* treatment is required in such cases.

It seems to have as *specific* an action, on the uterus, as the ergot (*cornutum secale*),—a very *different* action however, for the macrotrys is used without the least danger. It can be given in large quantities, either in decoction or tincture, without the least apprehension of injury.

Howard remarks, that "the tincture has been known sometimes to produce an alarming effect;" but this must have been only the effect of the spirit, in which the article was tinctured.

An extensive use for years has given me the utmost confidence in the harmlessness of the macrotrys, even when taken in large doses and at short intervals.

I am fully assured, also, that it is *not true*, as Dr. Thomson observes, that "this medicine should not be taken by females in a state of utero-gestation, as it will produce abortion," &c. So far is this from being the case, it is the first remedy I would prescribe to prevent abortion. This will appear almost paradoxical; yet it is nevertheless true; for the macrotrys seems to have an action upon the system synchronous with the effects of nature, and in harmony with her laws. It stimulates, and gives tone to the uterus, and thus strengthens this organ to a healthy action.

During the incipient stages of abortion, or, when the first symptoms of this state are perceived, the administration of this medicine will act like a charm, in quieting the pains, and calming the system; but, if nature has so far performed her work, that a healthy and *natural* effect *cannot* be produced, *then* this article is just the thing to stimulate the parts to perform their duty.

I can call to mind numerous cases, (and, had I time, I should be pleased to report them,) where I have seen the most happy and astonishing results from the administration of the macrotrys.

A tea-spoonful of the powdered root, in a cup of hot water, will generally be sufficient. Let a table-spoonful of this decoction be taken every 15 or 20 minutes, in composition tea, and the physician will soon see its effects.

I am well assured, that our practitioners have not used this article sufficiently to know its powers, and hence I thought it best to call their attention to it. I wished also, to correct the error into which Thomson and Howard have fallen, in describing it as a *dangerous* article.

Yours,

Macon, Ga., Jan., 1847.

I. M. COMINGS.

## EXTRACT OF SARSAPARILLA.

MR. EDITOR :—Since my communication on the *similax sarsaparilla*, published in the *Eclectic* some months since, I have received several communications, from our Practitioners, on the subject, making inquiries in relation to it, where the pure article can be obtained, &c. I wish to say in reply, that I shall carry on with me next March, when I visit the North, a quantity of the *pure* article, which I shall be pleased to sell to any of our Botanic friends. They can be accommodated, therefore, by applying at your Store, any time after my arrival in Worcester. I can assure our friends, that one bottle of the pure extract, is worth 50 bottles of any preparation of this article in the market.

Yours,

Macon, Ga., Jan., 1847.

I. M. COMINGS.

## SUGGESTIONS.

[The following communication was sent us for insertion in our paper, before it was resolved to change its name. In regard to the question which the writer puts respecting the character of the College, if he means to ask, Is it not desirable for the friends to have a surer guarantee, that the College will give its influence in favor of the Botanico-Medical Practice and against all depressing of the vital powers by poisons and depletion? we answer, No !!!—A surer guarantee is not possible in the nature of things; for every member of our Faculty and Board of Trustees is *decided* on this point.]

DR. NEWTON :—Having the favor of reading your valuable *Eclectic and Guide to Health*, as I have had of each of the successive numbers, I feel under obligations to forward to you my word of encouragement, if nothing more, in your arduous undertaking. Your cause, or *our* cause, I should have said, is a just one, and the principles upon which the advocacy is conducted should also be correct. The term *Eclectic* is much to be admired, especially when we have two subjects presented, in which, we are convinced, are embodied both truth and error. As far as a scientific and experienced Thomsonian practitioner is concerned, he probably views the old-school Theory and Practice of Medicine as a heterogeneous mass of errors, and the new-school, or correct Thomsonian Practice, as according with its Theory, and immoveably founded in truth. As far as experience goes, I am persuaded that knowledge, obtained by all the available means of instruction—in the schools, from books, and from Professors of the old Practice—is of the utmost importance and advantage to the Thomsonian Practitioner, to prepare him properly for an extensive circle of usefulness. The advantages I gained by the kindness of the Professors at our Maine Medical School, in Lectures and Demonstrations, have ever proved a blessing, I trust, to me. A correct knowledge of the Theory and Practice of the Old School gives us the power, at once, to confute their errors; and the knowledge of Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry, and Obstetrics is, of the first impor-

tance to a Thomsonian Practitioner, after he has obtained a correct knowledge of the Thomsonian Theory and Practice. By this, I would not be understood to say, that Surgery and Obstetrics are practiced, by the old-school physicians, on principles more nearly correct than other branches of Medicine. I only mean to say, that a knowledge of these is important.

The true principles advocated by Thomsonians are steadily gaining ground in this State; and, in some fields of Practice, one judicious Thomsonian has been blessed in changing the most of the Practice of two old-school physicians to that of the New School, in the space of one or two years. We do, I humbly trust, in this State, as a body of Practitioners, feel a good degree of interest in every effort to advance the true principles of the new Practice, and still, (as I humbly believe,) we regard with caution, if not suspicion, every movement that bears a semblance to innovation; especially, where there is ought that is mystical connected therewith; since one of the leading beauties of the true Thomsonian system, is its simplicity of formation and application to Practice; and the clearness with which the results, in a correct course of Practice exhibit the truth of the System. Many attempts have been made by various Practitioners, in my circle of knowledge, to make some little addition to, or some trifling subtraction from the true System, thinking it would be a decided improvement; but in vain.

The pure Thomsonian principles advocated in the Eclectic, and the spirit and candor with which they are advocated, are truly worthy of the warmest approbation; and still, as there appears to be some little semblance to degeneration from true Thomsonian principles, many probably cannot admit the Eclectic to full fellowship. One very serious objection to an amalgamation of the true and false Systems of Practice, is the fact, that, when, in severe and obstinate, and especially hopeless cases of disease, a mixed Practice is applied and fails, (as it usually does,) the Thomsonian System must be made the burden-bearer, in public opinion, and the public mind loses a good deal of confidence in the System thereby;—whereas, were a proper course of Practice pursued, in many instances, many valuable lives would probably be prolonged, and public confidence in the System would be preserved. These are objections that some of us have to an amalgamated Practice, or an Eclectic Practice, that are so conspicuous in the mind's eye, (unless stronger reasons can be adduced for such a Practice, than we have imbibed against it,) that they will be apt to continue with many of us.

Still another thought comes to mind; viz, one in relation to a Medical School for young men for a field of usefulness in Practice. This is one of the best movements that could be made, if rightly conducted. But still, in relation to this subject we find a variety of opinions. Some strong advocates we find, in favor of having a candidate for Practice read and attend in Practice a few weeks or months, and enter directly upon the arduous and responsible charge of the sick; while others contend, that a scientific education, in the arts and sciences, and in the Thomsonian System, should be first secured. These two points are evident extremes. Let the man who desires to be useful, as far as his heaven-endowed faculties will admit, obtain a correct knowledge of the

truths and the Theory of the Thomsonian Practice, and by observation many of its happy results, and then secure to himself a correct knowledge of as many different Theories and Practices as his means will permit.

This point of the subject brings to mind the petitions you have very properly circulated of late, for signatures, in favor of a charter for a Medical Institution. This, of itself, is a good measure, well carried out. But would it not probably be more in accordance with the feelings of all true Thomsonians, to be sure, that an Institution was to be conducted purely upon principles according with what they view to be correct, before they put forth a helping hand to aid in giving it legal protection? Please give your views in a succinct, lucid, plain English style, and I trust, we, as true Thomsonians, shall be at once decided what course to pursue in relation to all that relates to the Institution.

W. C. STAPLE.

*Farmington, Dec. 12th, 1846.*

## ENCOURAGING.

[The following private communication from a friend we venture to give to the public, omitting, however, the writer's name and residence, as he did not design it for publication.]

DR. NEWTON—*Dear Sir*:—I had intended to renew my subscription to the Eclectic before the New Year commenced. I hasten now to renew it.

There is a great apathy pervading this community, with regard to the Botanic Practice. Even some, who have sufficient light on the subject, will consent to be dosed with poisonous mineral drugs. They will read your Journal, and acknowledge the force of the arguments used; and, with facts staring them in the face, showing the absurdity of the Allopathic System, will go away and do as their fathers have done. But I am determined to break away from the shackles of custom. A year ago, I suffered much from general debility of the system, bleeding occasionally at the stomach. I went to the regular physician of this town, but he seemed to take but little notice of my complaints. I finally procured some simple medicine, by a friend's advice, in the shape of white pine pitch, made into pills, and took them night and morning. About four months since, I commenced washing the whole surface of the body with cold water, on rising in the morning, and have continued the practice to the present time. Now I can walk four miles without fatigue; whereas, a year ago, I could not walk a mile without a painful sense of weariness. I once shuddered at the idea of washing the whole body with cold water on winter mornings. Now I regard it as a luxury. I attribute these benefits to the influence of the Eclectic. I have received more than tenfold in return for the amount of the subscription paid. If any are halting, let them go and do likewise.

I wish you abundant success, as you commence another year. The "Eclectic," I hope, and expect, will continue to win golden opinions for the Botanic Practice, among the intelligent and reading part of the community.

Yours,

—, Jan. 1, 1847. — — —

### DR. STAPLE'S LETTER.

*To Prof. I. M. Comings:—*

Noticing in the 20th No. of the Eclectic, some remarks from your pen in relation to the different species of sarsaparilla, and especially the similax, and taking particular notice of your manner of preparing the *extract*, I was decided at once to write to you, as soon as possible, upon the subject of obtaining extracts in a manner to preserve the native quality of the vegetables, thinking that, in your extended circle of usefulness, you may cause it to prove a blessing to the suffering part of humanity.

In your remarks you say:—"We gather the root, and, after washing, boil it, until we have obtained its virtues. We then boil the liquid down, till it becomes nearly of the consistency of molasses; and afterwards add of alcohol a sufficient quantity to prevent it from fermentation."

Acquainted and familiar with the nature and effects of free caloric upon matter, you must be aware what is its tendency, when applied, at the boiling temperature, to the juice of a vegetable, fresh from its element. If you are not aware of the difference between an extract made in the boiling process, and that which is obtained and preserved, without the agency of water, of any of the liquid acids, of alcohol, of free caloric, or even of the direct rays of the sun, then, for your own satisfaction, if for no other reason, I would desire you, as soon as may be, to obtain this desired knowledge. Dr. I. Jacobs, of Bangor, my former tutor, gave me the first information upon this subject; and, since obtaining from him the starting point, I have, in connection with Dr. J. S. True, of New Sharon, made and preserved extracts of different vegetables to satisfy me of the propriety, utility, and importance of this mode of preparing medicine for use in Practice. Dr. True and I have used a large share of the lobelia inflata that has been required in our Practice within the last two years, in the form of this new extract. And, during the proper season to prepare such extracts, the present year, I have made extracts of different vegetables, and find, to my satisfaction, that there is no less difference between the beneficial results of other valuable vegetables, than there is with the lobelia inflata. Take, for instance, boneset, (*eupatorium perfoliatum*), and it is evident, that the extract of this vegetable will accomplish more in chronic cases of disease of the liver, stomach, and bowels, in a few days, than could be accomplished, by ordinary measures, in so many weeks. It appears to deprive it of its uncertainty in general. Besides this and very many



other valuable preparations, we have become satisfied, that the cancer may be removed by the aid of innocent vegetables, in extracts, for plasters and internal alteratives, so that they will not make their appearance again.

But the extract of the lobelia inflata, made in this manner, far surpasses any article I have ever known to be exhibited, for efficacy in operation, and the mildness and certainty of its action in changing morbid conditions of the various organs of the human system. The quantity of the mass necessary to be exhibited, under different circumstances of disease, is so small, that there is a great advantage in this respect. By careful manipulation, we can obtain about 1 oz. of the extract, ready for use, from 10 lbs. of the fresh herb; and you would see at once, that a moderate-sized pill would be a sufficient quantity for an emetic for persons of some peculiar temperaments. We find, that the peculiar state of the System, first noticed by Dr. Thomson, called the "*alarming symptoms*," is seldom, if ever, produced under the administration of this form of the lobelia; and still much more can be accomplished by an operation of a Course of Medicine with this, than by the aid of any other form of the medicine. In all hepatic obstructions, torpidity of the bowels, dyspeptic affections of the stomach, and, especially, all pulmonary affections, there is to be found a more decided advantage in the exhibition of this extract than in that of any known preparation, in my humble opinion. If your circumstances and callings will allow, I would urge upon you the propriety of applying some of these extracts in Practice, and giving the public to understand, what the result may be in your experience. The preparation of any and all innocent and useful vegetable medicines, in the best possible manner, is a subject of so much importance to the Thomsonian community at large, that it seems we should be acquainted and entirely familiar with each other's improvements in this particular department, trusting that a blessing will be the consequence. By observing some of the principles laid down by Justus Liebig, M. D., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Geissen, in his examination of the properties of vegetables, we have much information upon the subject of the preparation of vegetable medicines on this new plan. When this principle is properly understood, and the superiority of the new preparation rightly appreciated by our own Professors, Physicians, and Medicine-dealers, I can but trust, that we shall be favored with these new preparations in their purity, in all sections of our country. If you please to give this subject a candid and critical examination, I candidly believe you will find a rich compensation as the result of your labor.

Yours, truly,

Dec. 12th, 1846.

W. C. STAPLE.

*From the Journal of Health.*

## NURSING CHILDREN.

When we reflect upon the changes and revolutions which, from time to time, have taken place in the practices of the nursery, it is really

surprising how little these have been influenced by good sense, or the wisdom of experience; and in how few instances the new system has been an improvement upon that previously pursued.

The rules for the management of infancy have too generally been founded upon the misconceptions of the opinionated nurse of the equally ridiculous doctrines of some popular writer on "domestic medicine."

"Formerly," says an amusing, though not a profound writer, "all the rules and regulations of life, particularly nursery regulations, were drawn from 'The Domestic Medicine,' of Buchan: with some, indeed, this work ranked next to the Bible. These were facetiously denominated 'Buchaneers.'"

However judicious were many of the directions laid down by this famed author, for the physical education of children, he committed certainly a very serious error, in his attempt to "inure children to hardness" by a too early and indiscriminate use of the cold bath.

"Buchan, Sir, has done more towards improving the health and shape of our girls, than any man living," observed one old lady: "he popped them all into cold water at Christmas."

In the course of time, however, the influence of Buchan over the concerns of the nursery gradually diminished, and the barbarous practice of freezing children into health went, finally, out of fashion.

Our ears were no longer assailed with the convulsive screams of half-drowned infants, whose worthy, but simple parents believed they were sacrificing *themselves* for the good of their offspring. They forgot, in their anxiety for the latter's welfare, to confer upon them a Spartan constitution, before subjecting them to a Spartan discipline; and, in despite of the experience of common sense, and the convulsive screams of baby eloquence, they confidently hoped to turn nature from her course. The consequences of this practice of hardening were most disastrous—by it, few were braced into health, but multitudes were braced out of the world. "It had this advantage," observes a bitter satirist, "it reared up a robust offspring—upon the same principle as that pursued by some ancient and savage nations—by destroying all that were feeble or sickly!"

The cold-water system was, however, soon succeeded by another equally pernicious. It might be denominated the "Coddling system," and children now, instead of being *braced*, were *stuffed* to death. The good old nurse had discovered that all the disorders of infancy arise from wind. Wind could be nothing else than the effect of emptiness—consequently, the more the infant cried, the more it was stuffed:—"Godfrey's Cordial," "Dalby's Carminative," catnip tea, and thick pap, being administered in proportion to its fretfulness. But, alas! the obstinacy and ingratitude of children are proverbial. The greater the care taken to stuff it into health—the more puny, restless, and uneasy the little urchin became; and, just at the moment when the nurse congratulated herself that she had overcome the emptiness and conquered forever her enemy, the wind, the occurrence of some serious disease, accidental of course, made it necessary for her to resign her charge into the hands of the medical Practitioner.

This system, like the other, has had its day. Good sense and human-

ity have, in a great measure, expelled it from the nursery. But, if we have got rid of some of these absurdities, are we still, in our enlightened times, exempt from error? Have we not very learned ladies now-a-days, whose "Domestic medicine" is equally potent? Woe be to the child with a warm head, be it even on a summer's day, provided its mother has ever heard of *hydrocephalus*, or, in more vulgar language, dropsy of the brain. Woe be to "papa's darling," if mammy *understands* the administration of calomel. "Doctor," said a lady once to her physician, "I have sent for you because *we* cannot get on with this infant;—*we* have given five grains of calomel, and have repeated the dose, but all without success." "Madam, I can do nothing," was the reply: "the disease has passed beyond the reach of human skill!"

Not long since, a gentleman, whose excellent lady is skilled in "domestic medicine," in answer to the question, "How d'ye do?" replied, "I am very well, only a little *over-calomelized*!" Over-calomelized!—By whom?"—"By an amateur Practitioner!"—Strange! that one who would not dream of understanding the machinery of a watch, should think the complicated machinery of the human frame more easily understood!

Mr. Brande, in some very excellent remarks on this subject, uses a most appropriate epithet. He calls it *domestic empiricism*! "At a time," says he, "when domestic empiricism is so prevalent as at present, it is important to point out the dangers which may arise from the uses, or rather abuses, of the most simple remedies.

"Every medical practitioner must have witnessed the serious and sometimes fatal consequences, attendant upon the imprudent use of the stronger medicines, which are so extensively supplied for family consumption, particularly preparations of antimony, mercury, and opium; which, under a great variety of seducing forms and titles, are constantly employed. They are not, however, aware of the prejudicial effects of magnesia, when improperly administered." He then proceeds to detail the sufferings of a lady; who, in the course of two years and a half, took from nine to ten pounds weight of magnesia; and notices another case, in which, from four to six pounds of indissoluble magnesia were found in the digestive cavity of a diseased nobleman.

The above article may seem overdrawn to some, but we apprehend it does not come up to the reality of modern nursing. Hundreds and thousands of children are killed in the nursery by stuffing them with food and medicine.

---

*From the Western Medical Reformer.*

### OSTEO SARCOMA,

TREATED SUCCESSFULLY, BY T. V. MORROW, M. D.

Miss Jane, aged about 13 years, a daughter of Samuel Pickering, of New Castle, Henry County, Indiana, visited this city in company with

her father, in the early part of January last, in search of medical and surgical aid, for the relief of a disease of the superior maxillary or upper jaw bone, which is known to surgeons by the systematic name of *osteo sarcoma*, or bony enlargement, which had existed for some considerable length of time, and had acquired a pretty large size, producing some considerable deformity of the face of the patient. The patient had, previous to this attack, enjoyed a good state of health.

The object of their visit to this city was, as I afterward learned, more particularly to avail themselves of the skill and advice of Dr. Mussey. About the same time, a gentleman by the name of Price, came to this place from the same State, not very distant from New Castle, who was laboring under a similar disease, located about the same place, for the relief of which he submitted to a surgical operation by Dr. Mussey, the intention of which was to remove the whole of the diseased portion of the bone. A similar operation was proposed by Dr. Mussey, for the relief of Miss Pickering, to which, however, the young lady did not see proper to submit, but in due time came to consult me.

After a proper examination, which was in the presence of the Medical Class, I did not hesitate to give it as my opinion, that the case could be cured without the operation proposed by Dr. Mussey, and was accordingly solicited to commence the treatment forthwith, which was done on the 14th day of January, 1846, by extracting two of the jaw teeth, which grew out from that part of the bone most prominently affected, with a view to approach as near as possible, to the seat of the disease.

Into the orifice caused by the extraction of the teeth, a strong solution of the vegetable caustic was injected two or three times daily, and this orifice was, after each of these injections, completely plugged up, by involving a quantity of the powdered caustic in lint, and thus forming a tent, which was introduced and allowed to remain until it had dissolved, and acted on the diseased bone, producing at length a free discharge of sero-purulent matter, which seemed to have a rapid tendency to reduce the bone swelling. The patient, at the same time, used a moderate hydragogue cathartic every four or five days, and the alterative syrup three times daily, viz : morning, noon, and night. At each dressing, a soap suds injection was used to cleanse the parts thoroughly. After pursuing this course of treatment for a little more than three weeks, the change for the better had been so decided as to leave scarcely a doubt on my mind as to its ultimate success. I was so well convinced that such would be the termination of the case, that I did not hesitate to consent that the patient should return home, after furnishing her with the necessary supply of the above materials to continue the treatment for several weeks longer, which was accordingly done. In the early part of August last, I wrote to her father respecting the state of his daughter's health, and received in reply the following, which I here take the liberty to insert :—

“I take much pleasure in replying to your inquiries. I have no doubt my daughter Jane is well, and this is the opinion of all that have seen her, and I have had two dentists as well as several physicians to examine the case. You will please accept of my thanks for your kindness, and your treatment of her case. When I visited the city I applied to Dr. Mussey, and asked him what he

could do for the patient—and what would be the result? He stated, that it, (the diseased bone,) would have to be cut out, or it would be likely to kill her in a short time. I further asked him, if there was not a better way, or some other remedy; and he said not. I then informed him, if nothing else would do, I would have it done some time through the course of the winter, provided she would consent.

SAMUEL PICKERING.

*New Castle, Indiana, August 12th, 1846."*

While such has been the fortunate and successful result of the case, more particularly under consideration, under the ministrations of the Eclectic Reformed Practice, very different has been the fortune of Mr. J. Price, who came to this place, from the same State, about the same time, laboring under the same form of disease, and who followed the advice of Dr. Mussey, in submitting to a surgical operation for the removal of the diseased bone. This gentleman returned to this city about the first of September last, with a return of the disease in a much more aggravated form than before he was operated on, notwithstanding, it was thought, at the time, it was successful; and, perhaps, it is even so regarded yet by many who heard of this great surgical operation, as well as by some who were present at that occasion, and witnessed it; for I am informed, that a report of the operation found its way into the public journals of the country, representing it to have been completely successful. Indeed, Mr. Price himself informed me, that he had read a published report of the operation in his case, which stated the result to have been successful, and the whole affair to have been one of the most splendid triumphs of modern surgery. Having heard of the successful termination of Miss Pickering's case, his confidence was so great in the treatment, that he determined to avail himself of it, and accordingly came here for that purpose; but, on examination, I did not feel myself justified in giving any very decided encouragement. He, however, seemed very anxious to have some attempt made, and, under these circumstances, I consented to make a brief trial to see what might be the effect of treatment, but soon discovered it was a hopeless effort and abandoned any further attempt, the patient being unwilling to submit to such management as I thought indispensable to success in the treatment of his case, at that stage. The swelling had increased to such an extent as to close completely one of his eyes, and to turn his nose around from its natural position, so as to cause its extremity to rest on the opposite cheek. A large malignant ulcer of a corroding nature, yielding an intolerably offensive discharge, occupied the whole internal surface of this tumor, which had grown up promptly from the whole of the bony surface exposed by the removal of the diseased part, by the operation to which he had submitted.

Now, I have deemed it proper to introduce the facts and circumstances connected with this and similar cases, not for the purpose of disparaging, in any degree whatever, the professional skill or judgment of Dr. Mussey, but, merely, for the purpose of showing how very imperfect and defective, as well as how utterly worthless, are many of the boasted favorite resources of the old-school Practice, when brought into competition, by comparison, with the milder, more efficient, and congenial means and measures of the Eclectic Medical Reformers.

I have the fullest confidence, that it is and will be the intention of the Botanico-Medical College in Worcester to carry out the principles of true Reform in medicine, and that your Journal will ever be devoted to the public good, by illustrating the same principles.—Improvement is the order of the day in all things; and the thousands of medical roots, and plants, with which our fields and forests abound, as yet unknown to physicians and suffering patients will be an acquisition to the present number of medicines through the united research of those interested in the vegetable kingdom. There can be no fear, so long as the true principles of Reform are carried out. A point of union, and an exchange of views, with the results of investigation are needed, to an extent but little thought of, in order to raise the Botanic Practice to the standard its merits deserve. There may be some honest-hearted Reformers, who fear, lest some departure from the true principles of medicine, may be fostered in the College; but such ones will all come in, as fast as they find their mistake; and a happy mistake will it be to them.

[ Not quite the same is the spirit of following extract :—]

Another article vitch I saw is bad to advocate and what I think it is the devils advocating is Vastination which I do believe any reasonable man know better For these reason and a reason of my own owing to to paper vitch I will state When I subscribe the vas 2 subscription one for me and the other partly by me at my residence but in another nam Mine as I state I took for destrubute or circulate amonge my fellow being for thare information, But it is not a fit paper to put to that purpos and the other paper I can read tharefore this paper is useless to me and I send back the 2 copies begin leave of you to refun me back th money in a letter Remenbering the is one of you paper taken at this place through my influence

I am goin now to show your path is leading to Aristocracy You say this ant must be define to one class I say not If I am not a sutible judge what I out eat, drink or wear the is then one class of beings that is not equal with the dumb-beast Another thin to be thought of whare thare is screakercy man bein selfish thare is foul play For proof look back at the past Thare ar 3 things which have in a greater or less degree call the attention of men, Viz. Religion, Goverment, and Medison, In ages past these things were though by millions to belonge to 3 cls-ses Preast, Lawyers, and Physictans, The Preast heald the things of religion in thare own hand and brought the people to thare terms Kept the scriptures in dead languages so that the comon people could not read them Now it is diferent every man can read for himself And how much better that every man knows Goverment vas consided belonging to a few who thought themselves born onley to rule But now it is all men is born free and equal and the Magistrates is put in authority or out by the vois of the people But whare Medison is keep conceal in dead languages for the very caus of foul play the man must run the risk of his life whare he would not trus a doollar Another proof is that Physicians have do disagree requires not a moment to proove It is a fact that has ben demon-strasted for more then 2 thousands years.

**DR. J. HOOKER,**  
*No. 1, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets,*  
**WORCESTER, MASS.**

We are happy in announcing, that, to meet the increasing demand for our professional services, we have secured the assistance of Dr. J. Hooker, late of East Brookfield,—a gentleman whose experience and success in Practice where he has lately resided, have gained for him the confidence of a large circle of patrons. Dr. H., in our absence, will attend to the calls of patients at our Office. He will also, when requested, wait on patients in the village and vicinity. [Eo. Jour.]

**Dr. I. Jacobs' Pills.**

**LOBELIA EXTRACT PILLS.**—These Pills are prepared from the juice of the green herb, and evaporated to the consistency of a pill mass, at a temperature of about 98 degrees Fahr. This is an admirable mode of administering lobelia, and considered preferable, by those who have tried it, to all others. The Pills are used, in many cases, where vomiting is not considered necessary, and their operation is highly salutary. *Price \$1.00 per box, accompanied with full directions.*

**BONESET EXTRACT PILLS,** designed for biliary derangement, useful in dyspepsia, morbid state of the liver, jaundice, &c. Good also in scrofula, and consumption. *Price 33 cents per box with full directions.*

**CLOVE EXTRACT PILLS,** for purifying the blood and strengthening the system; a valuable remedy, also, in debility, nervous affections, female complaints generally. *Price 33 cents per box with full directions.*

The proprietor offers these medicines to the Profession, with full confidence, that they will meet the highest expectations.

For sale, wholesale and retail, by J. T. GILMAN PIKE, 79 and 81 Blackstone, st., Boston, Mass.

**DRS. J. & BENJ. F. ABBOTT'S**  
**Botanic and Thomsonian Dispensary,**

*No. 140, Hanover Street, Boston,*

(Successors to Dr. Elias Smith.)

We have on hand an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Extracts, Books, &c., which we offer for sale, wholesale and retail, at as low prices as they can be bought for in the city.

N. B. Patients attended to, as usual, in the city and vicinity.

Boston, Jan. 16, 1847.

**Travelling Agents Wanted!**

☞ To sell two Medical Works of great value:—**COMFORT'S THOMSONIAN PRACTICE OF MEDICINE—COMFORT'S THOMSONIAN PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY.** These works were written with special reference to *Family use*, and must be appreciated, by all who examine them, as the best means to preserve or restore health.

To men of integrity and business talent, with a small capital of \$50 or upwards, who are disposed to enter the business, (of the profitableness of which there is no doubt,) a Circular, giving a full description of the character of the Works, the principles, prospects, and profits of the agency, will be furnished, on application personally, or by letter, *postage paid*, to

ALEXANDER HARRISON, *Superintending Agent,*  
 No. 8 1-2 South 7th Street, PHILADELPHIA.

### New England Thomsonian Depot and General Herbarium.

79 and 81, Blackstone Street, Boston, Mass.

☞ DR. J. T. GILMAN PIKE would respectfully inform his friends and the public, that he is now making an addition of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, to his former extensive stock of Thomsonian and Botanic Medicines, which will enable him to supply wholesale dealers, practitioners, and private families on better terms than any dealer in the country.

His assortment embraces all the varieties of medicines usually furnished by similar establishments, together with an extensive stock of Apothecaries' Glass Ware, Syringes, Dental and Surgical Instruments, of the most approved kinds, Trusses, Abdominal Supporters, Oils, Extracts, &c., &c., and a constant supply of Brandy, Gin, Wines, and other liquors, of the best brand, for medicinal purposes.

His whole stock has recently been submitted to a careful examination, and every article, which, from age or other causes, had deteriorated, has been removed, and he warrants his whole stock *fresh and new*.

The rapid increase of the Botanic System of Medical Practice, has produced a corresponding demand for medicine, and country traders unacquainted with prescribing have felt the necessity of keeping a small assortment of articles, suitably labelled for family use.

To meet this exigency, Dr. Pike has committed the department of Pharmacy to Dr. JAMES OSGOOD, one of the most experienced physicians in the country, whose services he has secured for five years; and he now offers for sale a large variety of new articles, of great value, which have been thoroughly tested in private practice for many years, accompanied with adequate directions for family use, and fully adapted to meet the wants of the Botanic community, in all their diseases, whether chronic or acute.

The rapid sale of these medicines, and the accumulated testimony of their efficiency, are a sure indication that the public appreciate the value of medicines, compounded by physicians of age and experience, when compared with articles thrust upon them by mere tyros in medicine, who are perfectly unacquainted with the physiological state of the system, and, if it is diseased, are incompetent, of course, to prepare remedies adapted to restore it to its normal state.

### New Work.

☞ In course of publication, in New York, THE THOMSONIAN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL OBSTETRICS—By WM. HENRY FORERDEN, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, and Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, in the Southern Botanico-Medical College of Georgia, and Professor of Obstetrics, Chemistry, and Botany in the Worcester Botanico-Medical College, Mass.

This work is designed principally as a text-book for the students of the two Institutions with which the author is connected, and embodies the whole science of Obstetrics and Obstetrical Medicine and Surgery; but will, nevertheless, from the many ample details of symptoms and treatment, be found a valuable aid to all engaged either in public or family practice. It will be issued in one large volume, of between 500 and 600 octavo pages, illustrated by elegant engravings, and handsomely bound.

PRICE, \$4.00, *cash*. As but a limited edition will be published, orders for the work should be immediately sent either to Dr. HOSHA WINCHESTER, No. 108, John street, New York, Prof. CALVIN NEWTON, Worcester, Mass., or the AUTHOR, Forsyth, Georgia.

### For Sale.

☞ That well known and desirable stand, the Providence Thomsonian Depot and Botanic Infirmary. This excellent establishment has been in successful operation for more than six years. It is situated upon the "Popular" street. It does an excellent retail business, and something at wholesale. The proprietor is about to change his business, and would like to sell as soon as possible. A good run of business is guaranteed.

D. P. BUKER, Proprietor.

Providence, July 5th, 1846.



## New England Botanico-Medical College.

WORCESTER, MASS.

☐ The course of study required by this College is intended to occupy three full years; and candidates for the regular degree of M. D. must have attended two full Courses of Medical Lectures in some established Medical Institution, one of which must have been in this College. They must present satisfactory testimonials of good moral character; must have a competent literary education; and must well sustain an examination in the various branches of medical study, as contained in our Course of Lectures, and in the text-books which we recommend, or equivalents.

The following are the principal authors recommended:—

*On Anatomy*—Wilson, Quain, Wistar, Paxton, and Harrison.

*On Surgery*—Pancoast, Druitt, Liston, Cooper, Velpeau, and Castle.

*On Physiology*—Carpenter, Oliver, Muller, and Dunglison.

*On Pathology*—Gross, Gallup, and Watson.

*On Materia Medica*—Pereira, Wood and Bache, Beach, Mattson, Howard, Smith, and Thomson.

*On Auscultation and Percussion*—Laennec, Williams, Gerhard, Jackson, and Watson.

*On Theory and Practice*—Watson, Mackintosh, Elliotson, Stewartson, Mattson, Howard, Smith, and Thomson.

*On the Institutes of Medicine*—Gallup and Curtis.

*On Obstetrics and Diseases peculiar to Women and Children*—Churchill, Eberle, Chailly, Maygrier, Velpeau, Beach, Curtis, and Fonerden.

*On Chemistry*—Gray, Silliman, and Turner.

*On Botany*—Eaton, Bigelow, Gray, and Wood.

The next Course of Lectures will commence on the first Thursday in March, 1847, and continue fourteen weeks. The fee for a full Course is \$50, in advance, with a matriculation fee of \$3. Of those who have attended two full Courses at other Medical Colleges, \$10 only will be required. Graduates will be charged, in addition, \$25 for a diploma. Good board can be had for \$2.00 or \$2.25 per week.

The text-books recommended will be consulted *eclectically*;—*authoritatively*, indeed, so far as they are descriptive of actual conditions, as in Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and the like; but otherwise *with careful discrimination*,—the fundamental peculiarity of the doctrines taught in this College being, that there is no necessity for employing poisons of any kind as medicinal agents, and that the object in exhibiting any remedy should be to sustain and not to depress the vital powers.

The following are the present members of the Faculty:—

I. M. COMINGS, M. D., *Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.*

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., *Professor of Physiology, Pathology, and Materia Medica.*

L. BANKSTON, M. D., *Professor of Theory and Practice, and Institutes of Medicine.*

WM. H. FONERDEN, M. D., *Professor of Obstetrics, Chemistry, and Botany.*

Should the number of the next attending Class warrant the measure, the services of an additional Professor will be secured.

The facilities hereafter to be enjoyed, under a competent number of Instructors will be ample in all the departments. Dissections, surgical operations, illustrations, and experiments will be conducted in the most advantageous and instructive manner.

The friends of the College are respectfully and earnestly requested to preserve and forward to the Anatomical Cabinet interesting specimens of morbid anatomy and to favor the respective Professorships with such preparations as are adapted to facilitate illustrative teaching.

C. NEWTON, *President.*

☐ N. B. It gives us pleasure to be able, at this time, to say, that an unexpectedly large number of students have signified their intention to become members of our Medical Class the ensuing Spring; also, to have occasion to acknowledge our obligations to individuals for their truly generous donations to aid in the purchase of Anatomical Preparations, Chemical Apparatus, Books, &c., for the benefit of the College.

## **Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory,**

*No. 18, Central Street....Boston, Mass.*

THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also, Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes, constantly for sale.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners, and others, with medicines of *superior quality*, at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put in small packages, and labelled with full directions for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to.

B. OSGOOD WILSON,  
G. CARLOS WILSON

## **Botanic Infirmary, and Bathing Rooms.**

**C. NEWTON, M. D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,**

*At No. 2, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets, Worcester, Mass.,*

For the better accommodation of his patients, has opened that large establishment now known as above designated. Those availing themselves of the facilities which he offers at his Infirmary, will receive the most unremitting attention, and skillful treatment without poisons. Hydropathy, also, properly understood and scientifically employed he regards as little more than a constituent part of what has usually been termed the Botanic or Eclectic practice, and as the most effective and appropriate treatment, in many cases. He has, accordingly, provided for the sick, and for those who would not be sick, every suitable variety of baths—cold and warm—water and vapor—simple and medicated. "Wash and be healed," though an old fashioned prescription, is yet one of reason and common sense. If the act is too simple, in the experience, to satisfy those who have "sought out many inventions," it is more gratifying in the results, than salivated mouths, and calomelized broken-down constitutions.

## **Botanic Laboratory, and Eclectic Medicines.**

**C. NEWTON,**

At his new Medicine Store, No. 1, corner of Front and Carlton streets, Worcester, Mass., keeps constantly on hand an extensive assortment of Medicines, NOT POISONS. He also keeps a variety of such table delicacies as are used particularly in sickness, together with various fancy and toilet articles. Terms—low prices, and cash payments. Please call.

## **The New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal**

Is published on the 1st and 16th of every month, by C. Newton, M. D., at No. 1, corner of Front and Carlton streets, Worcester, Mass. Each number contains sixteen pages octavo, and the numbers of one year constitute a volume. Terms—\$1 per year, invariably in advance. This paper, before its change of name, had secured a much greater circulation than that of any Medical Journal in New England, Botanic or Allopathic, and had received numerous testimonials of high approbation. Its number of subscribers will now be still more increased. It is designed for DOMESTIC as well as for PROFESSIONAL use, and should be in every family. All remittances and communications pertaining to it, should be directed, post paid, to the Editor. Any person forwarding, post paid, the names of four subscribers, and remitting \$4, shall receive a fifth copy gratis.

**F. L. COX,**

**BOOK, JOB, AND CARD PRINTER,**

*No. 10, Central Exchange, Worcester, Mass.*

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical Colleges.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

Vol. I.      WORCESTER, MS., MARCH 1, 1847.      No. 5.

---

MAGNOLIA ACUMINATA — WILD CUCUMBER.

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

This is a large forest tree, similar to the tulip poplar. It is frequently seventy or eighty feet high. There are other species of the magnolia which are evergreen; but the leaves of this are deciduous, oval, acuminate, and pubescent beneath. It produces a fruit bearing some resemblance, while green, to a small cucumber. In July or August, this fruit turns a deep red color, opens in the form of scales, and lets fall a red seed, about the size of a kernel of corn. These seeds have a bitter aromatic taste, and are quite pungent. We have used them extensively, and consider them very valuable in certain forms of disease; especially, where there is a phlegmatic temperament, or a general relaxed state of the system.

In dropsical affections, we have found the magnolia to be a superior remedy.

The bark of the trunk and root is also very valuable. It is somewhat similar to the poplar, yet it is more diuretic and stimulant. It is good in dyspepsia, or where we want a remedy to increase the tone of the stomach.

We have known many cases of ascites and anasarca, which have been radically cured by the use of the bark of the magnolia alone.

The tincture of the seeds or bark, used freely three or four times a day, has been found a valuable remedy for chronic rheumatism. Indeed, we hardly know an article which possesses tonic, stimulant, and diuretic properties, to such an extent, as the magnolia acuminata.

For dropsical patients, a tea-spoonful of the powdered bark or seeds, mixed with molasses, and taken three times per day, is the best mode of administration.

*Macon, Ga., March, 1847.*

## Home Department.

### INTRODUCTORY LECTURE,

*To the Second Course of Medical Lectures in the New England Botanical-Medical College, Worcester, Mass., March 4th, 1847.*

BY PROF. I. M. COMINGS.

*Gentlemen*,—It is a pleasure, on this occasion, to meet you, to congratulate you, as well as the whole Botanic Fraternity, on the auspicious prospects before us. The very fact of your gathering here, for the purpose of increasing your medical knowledge, and preparing yourselves for the duties of professional life, is one of the best signs,—the surest mark of the ultimate triumph of our Principles and Practice throughout the world. Ignorance of our Theory, in those who have practiced, and among our patients, has been almost the only means of preventing its becoming universally disseminated through our land. Since the establishment of this, and other kindred Institutions, we have taken a footing and rank among the privileged ones of our country.

This extension of education amongst us has, doubtless, been one of the most influential of the causes which have elevated our profession in the estimation of the community. It is, indeed, difficult to conceive a position more honorable or more useful than that which is held in society by the well educated medical man; for, whilst, by his professional skill, he is constituted the dispenser of benefits, second in importance only to those which spring from religion, by his scientific attainments, he becomes the instructor of the circle in which he moves.

The ultimate object of all medical knowledge is, the maintenance, in health and vigor, of all those varied actions, which, in their whole, constitute the life of man. To attain an object thus comprehensive, the Professor of our Science must, in the first place, take cognizance of the machine whose actions he is to regulate. He must scrutinize, in order to understand the phenomena it displays, and he must, more especially, investigate *deviations* from the healthy or normal state, which constitute disease.

By inquiries thus directed, the physician will obtain a knowledge of that upon which he is to act; whilst, by a careful study of the properties and *modus operandi* of these diverse agents, which experience has taught to be capable of modifying and controlling the actions of the living body, he will possess the means of fulfilling the indications derived from an enlightened Pathology.

At the present day, the word Anatomy has an extensive signification, and conveys a meaning widely differing from that attached to it in former years. The science has not changed; nor, with some few exceptions, have any novel means of prosecuting it been introduced: for the various means of elucidating the human organization, now adopted, are, for the *most part*, similar to those by which the most distinguished Anatomists, in former days, enriched our art, and rendered their names illustrious. There is one difference, however. In former years, the scien-

tific means were restricted to the *few*, but they are now, in correspondence with the spirit of the age in which we live, extended to the *many*.

It is an observation, rendered trite by repetition, that the human form is infinitely complex in its organization, and varied in its parts,—that man stands at the summit of nature. But the elucidation in all its ramifications discloses principles of the highest significance, in the comprehension of which would be found at once the cause and vindication—if such were needed—of that extended and varied course of study upon which you are now entering.

The machine, affording the temporary abode of the immortal part of our being, is made of the common elements of matter, and subject to the general laws of physics and chemistry,—presenting, however, in addition, phenomena, governed by laws of which the inorganic world offers no counterpart. It is this combination of actions, partly vital and partly physical, which compels both the Anatomist and the Physiologist to seek, in *chemical* action and mechanical forces, the solution of some phenomena which have frequently been attributed to *vital* influence. Thus you see, gentlemen, the importance of all the branches of medical science to the physician.

But it is not our object, in this Lecture, to occupy your attention in remarks on our particular branch of science. This will come up more appropriately in future discussions.

The duties of a Lecturer on medicine have been most aptly and elegantly expressed by Lord Bacon as follows:—"He should not be like the ant, collecting all things indiscriminately from all quarters, and using them like provender for his discourses; nor like the spider, who seeks no materials abroad, but spinning his web of speculative doctrines within himself; but rather let him be like the bee, extracting crude honey from various flowers, storing it up in the recesses of his brain, and subjecting it to the operation of his internal faculties, until it is fit to be produced, digested, and ready for use." Such, gentlemen, is the course your speaker would be happy to pursue, and such it will be his endeavor to keep steadily in view, during the series of Lectures we now commence; and we should ill deserve the chair we occupy, if we did not feel the great responsibility under which we speak to you. The subjects with which we have to deal are not matters of mere speculative curiosity, or intellectual amusement, to be taken up to-day, and dismissed with unconcern to-morrow; but they relate to questions of life and death,—to sickness and health. The comfort or misery of many families may probably hang upon the notions that each of you will carry from this place. It is *this* which assures us, that we are engaged in a very serious undertaking.

Never be content with just that amount of knowledge which will enable you to get through the ordinary routine of your profession. Dig deep into the sciences of Physiology and Pathology. Be not *superficial* in your studies and attainments. Remember that such is not the spirit in which the members of the liberal profession are, *at this time*, expected to prepare themselves for the discharge of the duties which they undertake; and your presence within these walls, shows that *you*, at least, wish to raise the standard of medical education, and prepare yourselves

for the responsible duties that will devolve on you, when you commence the practice of your profession.

It is for us to convince the world of the superiority of the New System over the Old. To do this, we must become more or less acquainted with the Practice of the Old School, and their medicines,—with the nature and effects of their compounds, and with the different organs, systems and sympathies of the human frame; because truth has to be opposed to error, mind to mind, argument to argument. It is not enough for us to call some minerals poisons; but we must show *why* and *how* they are so. It is not enough to say, that copious bleeding, severe purging, and extensive blistering endanger life, and destroy it. We must show *why* and *how* this is done. We repeat, therefore, that mind has to meet mind, truth be opposed to error, argument to combat argument, and spirit to conflict with spirit,—with the power of truth, in the light of science.

We have long since discovered, that to accomplish what may appear to be a very simple matter, much knowledge is necessary; and, surely, it would be a perilous experiment to *limit* the education of the medical Practitioner, within the *bare* bounds of what might *seem* to be demanded of *him*, who so often holds the balance between life and death.

The career upon which you are now entering, is arduous, nay, laborious; but, at the same time, it should be understood, that there is much to lighten the task and to cheer on the student in the path he is destined to tread. In some other professions, it often happens that there is much which is uninteresting in itself, and affording no pleasure beyond what always attends upon a duty performed. How different is the science of medicine! Many of those subjects which *you* from *necessity* must study, others choose as a delightful *recreation* of the mind. Chemistry, Botany, Anatomy, and Physiology, all are more or less allied to the special objects of medical research, as we have shown; and these afford, in their prosecution, a satisfaction, which, losing none of its charms by repetition, retains a freshness till the very close of life,—favorably contrasting with the satiety, which is at once the accompaniment and the penalty attached to mere sensual pleasures.

To the rightly constructed mind, it will appear to be a *privilege* granted, rather than a *task* exacted, to enter upon the acquisition of knowledge thus varied and interesting;—to be permitted to study; and thus, so far as it is allowed to man in his present state, to know the nature, and to comprehend the causes of some portion of the vast number of the phenomena amidst which we find ourselves placed. But, to have a relish for these pure and elevating pursuits, our tastes must be cultivated, and our faculties refined; for the man of *pleasure* and *leisure* has little aptitude for enjoying the most exquisite works of the Creation, or for the contemplation of those laws by which we are sustained.

Let me then commend to your earnest attention, these branches of knowledge, inasmuch as they will subsequently afford pleasing subjects of inquiry in the intervals of more active duties; and, especially, because when *rightly* interpreted, they afford a foundation for the reception of Divine Revelation, which can neither be sapped by the arts of the infidel, nor overturned by the sophistries of the sceptic. It was said, by the Poet,

"The undevout Astronomer is mad."

With the same propriety we may say, No Anatomist can be an infidel. In the process of dissection, in which it is our province to labor, you will, gentlemen, encounter much which is discouraging: yet the dissecting room must, on no account, be neglected. It was in the dissecting room that Albinus, Scarpa, Spalanzani, Haller, the Hunters, Bell, and Magendie found the nurseries of their genius and industry. To learn the use of the scalpel, and to familiarize the hand with the knife on the dead subject, are indispensable prerequisites to surgical Practice, in almost all operations.

A little diligence and attention, will make almost any one, an expert and clean dissector, and introduce him to a general knowledge of the relative positions of the muscles, arteries, nerves, viscera, &c. If you will persevere in this branch, you will be richly compensated, even though your labor unfold nothing to your observation beyond mere form, distribution, and other structural peculiarities of individual parts; but, when, in your contemplation, you associate these according to the relation and order in which nature has united them,—when you trace the dependence of one part upon another, and their marvellous adaptation to each other,—when you acquire an insight into the structure of that beautiful organ, the heart, which may be called the centre of life, and trace the diverse channels proceeding from it, through their divisions, subdivisions, and finally infinite ramifications,—when you fully comprehend the beautiful mechanism by which it acts, the order in which its complicated functions are performed, and the accuracy with which the performance is sustained, through all the vicissitudes and commotions, (both mental and bodily,) of a long life, in all positions, and under all circumstances,—when you connect the fact, that the vital current requires supplies from the elements of the food we eat, and from those of the air we breathe, with the arrangements, that you discover for the attainment of both these objects,—when you contemplate, that, in addition to the process of nutrition, with all its apposite contrivances, for repairing, the wear and tear of the system, a process is necessary for separating from the circulating fluids, whatever may not be available in the general economy,—and when you find a system of contrivances, not less appropriate, consisting of glands which perform the office of separation, tubes which convey the excretions, and reservoirs for their reception,—you cannot then, gentlemen, fail to feel, as I have often done, that the labor of the occupation is merged in the *deep interest* which it is calculated to inspire.

But I am again digressing. Our study especially requires zeal and close application. The requisite knowledge cannot be acquired by cursory and occasional attention. The student should turn from all that is likely to preoccupy his thoughts; for it will avail him nothing, that he hears the precepts of his teacher,—that he sees practical illustrations of the doctrines he has heard,—that the means of knowledge are placed within his reach, if he remains but a *passive* observer. We must *feel, touch, handle for ourselves*, as well as *think*, and draw those rational conclusions, which are but the result of philosophic deductions from nature's laws.

Many eyes are fixed upon you, and your future career and conduct are of more importance to others, as well as to yourselves, than you may imagine. In a few years, many of those who now hold the highest posts of distinction in medicine, either will have paid the debt of nature, or will be heard of only as having retired from the bustle of life,—their places will be filled by those only a little older than we are; and, when these give room, as in time they must, *we*, gentlemen, are to fill their places. Let me tell you, then, that you are destined to fill stations of high responsibility and importance. It is, therefore, very evident, that your course of conduct is not a matter of indifference to the world; and it now remains with you to decide, whether you will acquire the *good* or the ill opinion of your fellow beings.

Diligence in your profession, integrity and elevation of feeling and action form the sure passport to the one; while indolence, extravagance, and the adoption of frivolous or discreditable habits, are equally certain roads to the other.

We have observed, that the profession you have chosen is an arduous one; but there is none that will yield, eventually, and more certainly, a due reward to the industrious and upright. It is true, that medicine does not often lead to political distinction; for its sphere is eminently confined to private life; yet honors, many and distinguished, await those who make a proper use of their earlier years, and who duly attend to the details of study required of those who aspire to become guardians of the health of their fellow men.

It is this great responsibility resting upon our profession, that causes us to reiterate, again and again, these moral precepts, and to urge the importance of rightly improving all your time to the best advantage, during the few short months you will be here in this Institution.

You will never feel this responsibility, till you stand by the bed side of the dying patient. Then is the time for you to realize the great interest at stake, and the importance of being qualified to discharge the duties of your profession. When life or death seems to depend on your efforts,—when the weeping friends are standing round you with full confidence in your skill,—when the lamp of life seems flickering in its socket, and the dying man looks to you as his only *earthly* hope,—*then*, and not till then, will you feel the importance of this subject, and your *great responsibility*.

You can become adepts, in the various branches of medicine, in this Institution, as well as in the most distinguished Colleges in the land. *Study, study,—hard, persevering and unremitting study*, will make you every thing you wish to be, in regard to intellectual pursuits. Let me exhort you, then, to apply yourselves to your books. You should never be satisfied merely with what your Professors tell you; but consult your books, and see, like the ancient Bereans, “if these things are so.” Never be satisfied with any attainments you *may have made*; but consider what is yet to be learned. And here let me throw out one caution to you, which may be of advantage, *Never come to the conclusion, that you know enough*; for, if you do this, you will always remain in ignorance.

There is some propriety in this caution, from the fact that those students who do apply themselves at first to their books, and are atten-



tive to the Lectures, make very *rapid progress*,—almost astonishing to themselves. The great variety of subjects that are studied at one and the same time, and the course of instruction, is calculated to advance students so rapidly, that many are willing to conclude, after a few weeks of close application, that they *have learned enough*, and they *know enough*, and that all future efforts are useless. Such persons are learned in *their own estimation*, and are always attempting to make others believe it. Unfortunately, however, for themselves, in this attempt they are not always successful. Let me warn you, therefore, while you are connected with this Institution, to remain students, and not to become *teachers*, too early. Let your literary or scientific attainments be what they may, you must remember, that there are some around you, who may know some things which you do not. Yes, we can learn from the humblest individual in society; and, if we would become distinguished in any branch of knowledge, we must be ready to learn from all, and treasure up the little items of intelligence, as gems to adorn us in our future course of life.

In this way, by close application to your books, by constant attention to the Lectures, by thorough study and persevering efforts, you cannot fail to be prepared to fulfil the duties that will devolve upon you, through your professional career.

You are all aware, gentlemen, of the peculiar disadvantages under which we commence this Course of Lectures. We are surrounded by many unfavorable circumstances. We cannot afford to our students all the facilities that older and better endowed Colleges offer; but we feel confident in the assertion, that the instruction here given, and the Principles and Practice here taught, will better qualify you to be Practitioners of the healing art, than you could be qualified in other Institutions in our country, where other facilities are much greater. Remember,

“Truths that the Theorist could never reach,  
By observation taught us, we would teach.”

While, therefore, we have no extensive Cabinet, nor thousands in our Library, nor well-stored Laboratory, nor costly apparatus; yet we dispense *truth, unvarnished truth*, unmixed and uncontaminated with error and the dogmatical theories of the Old School of Medicine;—yes, such truths as are more valuable to you than mines, or costly pearls,—such truths as carry you above, *far above* the speculations of fanciful minds, and place our System upon an immutable basis.

With these assurances on our part, we only desire that our pupils may give such attention to our Course, and make such application to books, as will render them fully competent to decide on the comparative merits of the two systems. If you will do this, we have no fears as to the result; for truth will prevail over error, and reason and facts will subdue the most inveterate prejudices of mankind. These axioms afford us the most undoubted evidence of the ultimate triumph of the Reformed Practice of Medicine, and give us the most sanguine hopes of the prosperity of this Institution.

It will be the object of your Lecturers to lead you along in a judicious and progressive course. From step to step, you will follow us; and we have no doubt, that you will so improve the opportunities, as to make rapid

advances in medical knowledge; and that, at the close of our Session, you will be as well acquainted with the science of medicine, as any young men who have enjoyed similar advantages.

With these remarks, Gentlemen, thrown out to you with the kindest feelings, as well as the greatest interest in your welfare and success in life, we introduce our Course of Lectures.

[Correspondence with reference to the above.]

N. E. Botanic-Medical College,

Worcester, 5th March, 1847.

Prof. I. M. COMINGS—*Dear Sir*:—At a meeting of the Class of the New England Botanic-Medical College, we, the undersigned, were appointed a Committee to solicit a copy of your very interesting introductory Lecture for publication in the Journal. In fulfilling the duties of our appointment, we feel a pleasure in tendering to you, from the Class, expressions of esteem and regard.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN DENNIS,

J. T. DICKENS,

E. S. STEBBINS,

} Committee.

To I. M. COMINGS, M. D.,

Prof. of Anatomy and Surgery.

Worcester, 6th March, 1847.

Gentlemen:—In compliance with your request, I herewith transmit a copy of the address referred to. Accept my best wishes for your success and rapid advancement in the cause of medical science, and believe me,

Yours respectfully,

I. M. COMINGS.

To Messrs. DENNIS, DICKENS, and STEBBINS.

### CATAMENIAL METASTASIS.

MR. EDITOR:—In the 3d No. of the N. E. Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, I noticed, from the pen of Prof. Comings, the report of a "Singular Case," termed "*Lacteal Metastasis*," treated successfully by Dr. David Herron, of Penfield, Ga. Perusing this report brought to my mind a case of a different character, which fell under my care and observation, some five years ago. I will give a statement of the case, as near as I can recollect; and, if you should deem it worthy of notice in your valuable Journal, you are at liberty to publish it.

The patient was an unmarried female, about eighteen years of age. Previously to my being called to visit her, she had been declining in health for a number of months; and, as her friends informed me, had had turns of appearing very singular, absent-minded, forgetful, &c.—The day on which they sent for me, she had what her friends supposed to be a fit. I found her, as I thought at the time, under the influence

of hysteria. She appeared perfectly conscious of all that was transacted around her, and answered questions correctly; yet she lay with her eyes constantly winking and with her mouth in a contracted, or puckered condition, which, together with the pallid and distorted appearance of her whole countenance, presented a most singular spectacle to look at. On examining her case, I found that the catamenial discharge had been, for some months, irregular, and partially suppressed, and that, at this time, there was an entire suppression. A constant and profuse emitting or dreuling of saliva from the mouth, of a strong fetid smell, soon commenced, and so continued, more or less, for several months; and, what was quite as singular to me, every month, or, as I supposed, at every period for her catamenial discharge, she would, for some three or four days, spit off a substance resembling in appearance that secretion. She continued to linger in this way, for eight or nine months, without much alteration, except the wasting away of the flesh, until she became emaciated almost to a skeleton, and no one expected that she would ever recover. I persevered, however, in the treatment of her case, and finally succeeded in restoring her to a comfortable state of health. Her dreuling ceased; the appetite, which had been lost, returned; and, after nature had sufficiently recovered her wonted vigor, the menses became regular. She regained her flesh and usual flow of spirits, and, in fact, was in appearance well, and so remained for more than a year. But, being away from home, she was neglectful of her health, took cold, &c.; and eventually got down again, became partially deranged, and so remains to the present day. She has not had, in her present illness, those symptoms of dreuling, &c., spoken of above. I have not been her physician,—have not prescribed at all for her, at this time.

To give the treatment that I pursued in the above case, in detail, is now out of my power, as, at the time, I took no notes concerning it. Suffice it to say, in general terms, that, in the former part of her sickness, I gave her occasionally an emetic, which would check the dreuling for a while; gave her, two or three times a day, for an intermediate treatment, a pill composed of lob. inflata, ext. leontodon taraxacum (dandelion), capsicum, cypridium humile (ladies slipper), &c. For a tonic, I gave the helonias dioica (unicorn), the trillium pendulum (beth root), and a little capsicum combined. These, together with much bathing and friction upon the surface, the use of stimulating and nourishing enemata, stimulating and nervine teas to drink, &c., constituted the general treatment. In short, she seemed not to get better, until she dreuled off the most of her flesh, and for some days, hung, as it were, upon a pivot, her friends expecting that every day would be her last. In this low state, medicine and nourishment were administered freely by injection.

This, at the time, was a singular case to me, as I never had seen one like it before, nor have I since. Query:—Was this a case of *catamenial metastasis*?

One word in regard to your Journal; and I have done. It is sufficient to say, that I am well pleased with the work, and honor your independent course. Some of your correspondents say, "I am a Thomsonian." So I say, I am an Eclectic; or, if you please, a Botanic; but I am governed by nature, and not by any school.

by the great fundamental principles of Thomson, in my Practice. I use, in the curative process, whatever I find to be *good medicine*,—congenial with nature. I do not believe in “sending in the devil to drive out sin;” in other words, deadly poisons to counteract disease.

Yours, &c.,

O. B. LYMAN.

Norwich, Ct., March 8th, 1847.

## NEW ENGLAND BOTANICO-MEDICAL COLLEGE.

We are pleased to inform our friends, that the Lectures in our College have commenced under the most favorable auspices. We have twenty young men now in attendance, and are expecting others every day. From their punctuality and attention for the last two weeks, and from the readiness with which they answer the questions propounded, we must regard them, generally, as possessing superior minds, and as bidding fair hereafter to distinguish themselves, as well as to do honor to the Cause which they have espoused. We are well supplied with Anatomical facilities; and, if these young men leave us, ignorant of the various branches of medicine, it will not be the fault of the Professors; for we are determined to use every effort to afford our students the best opportunities for gaining professional knowledge.

We are solicitous, that the cry of ignorance which has been raised against Botanic Physicians (, and often with too much reason), should be hushed. Hence, we are cheerfully making sacrifices, to establish this Institution. We are sure, that, if our friends will come up to our help, a new and brighter era will dawn upon the cause of Medical Reform.

We are aware that some, who are quite radical in their views, may keep a little aloof, for fear we may be disposed to amalgamate or mix the errors of the Old School, with those fundamental principles, which they, as Reformers, believe to be true.

Now, to such of our friends we have said (, and we reiterate it again and again), that our sympathies and hearts' best feelings are with every advocate of Medical Reform, and we do not wish any to look on us as unmindful of the best interests of the cause. Let us all come up to the contest against the common foe, namely, those Principles and that Practice, which are at war with the vital powers; which countenance the administration of poisons to restore health, and take away the *principle* of life to restore life. [Ed. Jour.]

## EXPLANATION.

We are sorry to learn, that some disaffected persons take upon themselves to say, that the Degrees conferred upon the students in our College, are not legal. If such persons will trouble themselves to examine the charter of the Southern Botanico-Medical College, and the arrange-

ment made with the Board of Trustees, they will not be so free to express such an opinion.

The Degrees are just as legal, and the Diplomas just as valid, as when conferred on and given to those who attend the Courses of Lectures at Macon, Georgia.

This is the opinion of one of the Judges of the Superior Court in that State, and of distinguished legal gentlemen in New England; and it ill becomes the *would-be* wise ones, who are opposed to the interests of the New England Botanico-Medical College, to set up their *dictum* against the best legal authority.

We are not surprised that disappointed aspirants, who may feel chagrined that they cannot be the *leaders* in Medical Reform, should wish to *misrepresent* us, and prevent young men from attending our Lectures. Such persons will meet with their merited reward; but the car of Reform will roll on, in despite of all these puny efforts.

I. M. COMINGS.

## THE ADVANTAGE OF SUSTAINING A MEDICAL PAPER.

A medical paper ought to have place in every family. Many persons think but little about health, till they are deprived of it;—then they resort to all means possible to restore it. No earthly possession is then too highly valued, to exchange for restored health, and a sound constitution. Friends and physicians are consulted, by the one afflicted, to know if any thing can be done. Would people manifest as much anxiety to preserve their health and keep disease from getting its fast hold upon them, as they do to cure it, when it once gets its hold, they would enjoy life, and save great expense in procuring medical aid. For a small sum, a Journal of health can be obtained, in which diseases, in great variety, are described, and the appropriate remedies given. Persons availing themselves of such means of medical information, would be able to be their own physician, and save themselves the trouble and expense of employing one. The design of such a paper is to have a channel through which thought may be communicated from one to the other. The paper, therefore, not only should be taken by every family, but should be made of general interest to all who patronize it. Should those engaged in giving medicine to the sick, publish what they have experienced, or those who know of good resulting from the administration of harmless remedies, make known their knowledge in such a paper as we are now laboring to support, it would add greatly to its interest, as well as its advantage to us. Indeed, though a medical paper may have a distinguished editor, yet he needs assistance, from good sources, in collecting facts, and can be greatly aided in making his paper profitable to his readers.

The experience of those interested in the welfare of mankind, is of importance more than is generally considered. Very many complain of the high charges of physicians for curing them of disease, when, at the

same time, they do nothing to keep it off; whereas, by a little trouble and care, they could save the onerous charge so much the object of complaint. A medical Journal is necessary for the welfare of the community. Such a paper ought to be sustained, and we, as subscribers, ought to exert ourselves, to the utmost, to sustain an enterprise of so great a moment, and aid in the circulation of a paper of this description.

A SUBSCRIBER.

## Southern Department.

### TO OUR SOUTHERN BOTANIC PATRONS.

The undersigned, having now made arrangements with Prof. C. Newton to occupy two pages of his Journal with matter that will be of particular interest to the South, and as an organ for the Southern Botanical-Medical College, takes this method of introducing the Journal to the Southern friends. We have been so long identified with the Botanic Cause in Georgia, that we think our friends will not be suspicious, as to the orthodoxy of our views, but will recognize us as a tried champion in our ranks.

Efforts to sustain a Botanic paper in this State have so often failed, that we dare not attempt the establishment of a Periodical here;—not that there are not Thomsonians enough to sustain us, but our failures have created the loss of confidence on the part of our friends. We have, therefore, secured the privilege of this space in the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, a paper which is firmly established with an increasing list of subscribers, so that our friends in the South can now have no fears of a failure.

We send this number to our Botanic friends in South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, and desire that they will send us not only their own names as subscribers, but many others. It will be observed, that the terms of the paper are only one dollar per annum; and, where a club of five subscribe, it is only 80 cts. per volume, or five copies for 4 dollars, in advance.

We shall be pleased to receive the subscription in advance; but, where this is not convenient, and there are doubts in the minds of the subscribers, as to the continuance of the Journal, and where any agent will assure us that the subscribers are responsible, we will cheerfully send the volume to its close, and then the amount can be forwarded to us.

We anticipate a large accession to the subscription list of the Journal, by this arrangement; and shall be disappointed, if our Thomsonian friends do not come up nobly to our support. We are as well acquainted with the generosity of the South, as with its hospitality and frankness; and we know full well, that our South Carolina and Georgia friends will not be backward in sustaining a Botanic Journal, which will make its regular appearance *without fail*.

We send this number to all our students whose Post Office address we have, and we hope they will especially interest themselves in procuring subscribers. All communications and remittances can be forwarded to Dr. C. Newton, Worcester, Mass.; or, after May next, to the subscriber at Macon, Ga.

I. M. COMINGS.

Macon, Ga., March, 1847.

### ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE IN VIRGINIA.

We are happy to learn, that our friends in Virginia have secured, from the Legislature of that State, a charter for a Botanico-Medical College. The bill has, at length, passed both Houses, without opposition, and will, doubtless, receive the signature of the Governor, as he is known to be an advocate of our Practice. This is doing the thing right. Last year a similar bill was gotten through the Legislature; but, by a manœuvre of a few old-school doctors and those allied with them, the bill, near the close of the session, after its friends had, in many instances, obtained leave of absence, was reconsidered. Such a game, so ungenerous and wicked, will not again be played. The light of medical truth is beginning to shine widely over the "old dominion"; and under such auspices as now exist, will soon bless that State with a medical Profession enlightened and worthy of public confidence.

A similar favorable change is destined to take place in this State. A few of the *would-be* great ones now think to prevent the increase of light; and, in their gravity and wisdom, they have decided, that we shall not, *at present*, have a charter from our own State; but, thank Heaven, we have one from the State of Georgia, and with that they cannot interfere. We venture to predict, too, though no prophet nor the son of a prophet, that the time is not far distant, when we shall have a charter granted by the authority of the "old Bay State." The death-knell of the Legislature at present existing will be tolled at the close of the year; but friends of the cause of Medical Reform will live; and they will multiply, too, for the progress of truth is onward. Those who love darkness rather than light, "because their deeds are evil," and because their "craft is in danger," may oppose; but the community will, sooner or later, appreciate the nature of their course and their motives, and they will decide in favor of the cause of Medical Reform. Such narrow-mindedness and illiberality,—such a disposition to keep the veil of darkness spread over the cause of truth, will not long have a predominant influence. [Ed. Jour.]

### SOUTHERN CONTRIBUTORS.

We have the promise, from quite a number of our students and others, that we shall receive some assistance, by way of communications, and

reports of interesting cases. We anticipate that our Northern friends will be equally as interested as the South, in this correspondence. Professors Bawhston, Cox and Cook, must not forget us. Professor McIntyre has promised us aid.

### Medical and Surgical Clinique.

During the ensuing Term of the New England Botanic-Medical College, a Medical and Surgical Clinique will be held every Saturday from 2 to 4 o'clock, P. M. Patients attending, on these occasions, will be examined and prescribed for gratuitously by the Faculty.

C. NEWTON, *per order.*

#### DR. J. HOOKER,

*No. 1, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets,  
WORCESTER, MASS.*

We are happy in announcing, that, to meet the increasing demand for our professional services, we have secured the assistance of Dr. J. Hooker, late of East Brookfield,—a gentleman whose experience and success in Practice where he has lately resided, have gained for him the confidence of a large circle of patrons. Dr. H., in our absence, will attend to the calls of patients at our Office. He will also, when requested, wait on patients in the village and vicinity. [Ed. JOUR.]

#### Dr. I. Jacobs' Pills.

LOBELIA EXTRACT PILLS.—These Pills are prepared from the juice of the green herb, and evaporated to the consistency of a pill mass, at a temperature of about 98 degrees Fahr. This is an admirable mode of administering lobelia, and considered preferable, by those who have tried it, to all others. The Pills are used, in many cases, where vomiting is not considered necessary, and their operation is highly salutary. *Price \$1.00 per box, accompanied with full directions.*

BONESET EXTRACT PILLS, designed for biliary derangement, useful in dyspepsia, morbid state of the liver, jaundice, &c. Good also in scrofula, and consumption. *Price 33 cents per box with full directions.*

CLOVE EXTRACT PILLS, for purifying the blood and strengthening the system; a valuable remedy, also, in debility, nervous affections, female complaints generally. *Price 33 cents per box with full directions.*

The proprietor offers these medicines to the Profession, with full confidence, that they will meet the highest expectations.

For sale, wholesale and retail, by J. T. GILMAN PIKE, 79 and 81 Blackstone, st., Boston, Mass.

#### DRS. J. & BENJ. F. ABBOTT'S Botanic and Thomsonian Dispensary,

*No. 140, Hanover Street, Boston,*

(Successors to Dr. Elias Smith.)

We have on hand an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Extracts, Books, &c., which we offer for sale, wholesale and retail, at as low prices as they can be bought for in the city.

N. B. Patients attended to, as usual, in the city and vicinity.  
Boston, Jan. 16, 1847.



## New England Thomsonian Depot and General Herbarium.

79 and 81, Blackstone Street, Boston, Mass.

☞ DR. J. T. GILMAN PIKE would respectfully inform his friends and the public, that he is now making an addition of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, to his former extensive stock of Thomsonian and Botanic Medicines, which will enable him to supply wholesale dealers, practitioners, and private families on better terms than any dealer in the country.

His assortment embraces all the varieties of medicines usually furnished by similar establishments, together with an extensive stock of Apothecaries' Glass Ware, Syringes, Dental and Surgical Instruments, of the most approved kinds, Trusses, Abdominal Supporters, Oils, Extracts, &c., &c., and a constant supply of Brandy, Gin, Wines, and other liquors, of the best brand, for medicinal purposes.

His whole stock has recently been submitted to a careful examination, and every article, which, from age or other causes, had deteriorated, has been removed, and he warrants his whole stock *fresh and new*.

The rapid increase of the Botanic System of Medical Practice, has produced a corresponding demand for medicine, and country traders unacquainted with prescribing have felt the necessity of keeping a small assortment of articles, suitably labelled for family use.

To meet this exigency, Dr. Pike has committed the department of Pharmacy to Dr. JAMES OSGOOD, one of the most experienced physicians in the country, whose services he has secured for five years; and he now offers for sale a large variety of new articles, of great value, which have been thoroughly tested in private practice for many years, accompanied with adequate directions for family use, and fully adapted to meet the wants of the Botanic community, in all their diseases, whether chronic or acute.

The rapid sale of these medicines, and the accumulated testimony of their efficiency, are a sure indication that the public appreciate the value of medicines, compounded by physicians of age and experience, when compared with articles thrust upon them by mere tyros in medicine, who are perfectly unacquainted with the physiological state of the system, and, if it is diseased, are incompetent, of course, to prepare remedies adapted to restore it to its normal state.

## Travelling Agents Wanted!

☞ To sell two Medical Works of great value:—COMFORT'S THOMSONIAN PRACTICE OF MEDICINE—COMFORT'S THOMSONIAN PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY. These works were written with special reference to *Family use*, and must be appreciated, by all who examine them, as the best means to preserve or restore health.

To men of integrity and business talent, with a small capital of \$50 or upwards, who are disposed to enter the business, (of the profitableness of which there is no doubt,) a Circular, giving a full description of the character of the Works, the principles, prospects, and profits of the agency, will be furnished, on application personally, or by letter, *postage paid*, to

ALEXANDER HARRISON, *Superintending Agent*,  
No. 8 1-2 South 7th Street, PHILADELPHIA.

## For Sale.

☞ That well known and desirable stand, the Providence Thomsonian Depot and Botanic Infirmary. This excellent establishment has been in successful operation for more than six years. It is situated upon the "Popular" street. It does an excellent retail business, and something at wholesale. The proprietor is about to change his business, and would like to sell as soon as possible. A good run of business is guaranteed.

D. P. BUKER, *Proprietor*.

Providence, July 5th, 1846.

---

### **Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory,**

*No. 18, Central Street....Boston, Mass.*

☞ The subscribers would respectfully inform the public that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also, Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes only.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners, and others, with medicines of *superior quality*, at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put in small packages, and labelled with full directions for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to.

B. OSGOOD WILSON,  
G. CARLOS WILSON

---

### **Botanic Infirmary, and Bathing Rooms.**

**C. NEWTON, M. D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,**

*At No. 2, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets, Worcester, Mass.,*

For the better accommodation of his patients, has opened that large establishment new known as above designated. Those availing themselves of the facilities which he offers at his Infirmary, will receive the most unremitting attention, and skillful treatment without poisons. Hydropathy, also, properly understood and scientifically employed he regards as little more than a constituent part of what has usually been termed the Botanic or Eclectic practice, and as the most effective and appropriate treatment, in many cases. He has, accordingly, provided for the sick, and for those who would not be sick, every suitable variety of baths—cold and warm—water and vapor—simple and medicated. "Wash and be healed," though an old fashioned prescription, is yet one of reason and common sense. If the act is too simple, in the experience, to satisfy those who have "sought out many inventions," it is more gratifying in the results, than salivated mouths, and calomelized broken-down constitutions.

---

### **Botanic Laboratory, and Eclectic Medicines.**

**C. NEWTON,**

☞ At his new Medicine Store, No. 1, corner of Front and Carlton streets, Worcester, Mass., keeps constantly on hand an extensive assortment of Medicines, not Poisons. He also keeps a variety of such table delicacies as are used particularly in sickness, together with various fancy and toilet articles. Terms—low prices, and cash payments. Please call.

---

### **The New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal**

Is published on the 1st and 16th of every month, by C. Newton, M. D., at No. 1, corner of Front and Carlton streets, Worcester, Mass. Each number contains sixteen pages octavo, and the numbers of one year constitute a volume. Terms—\$1 per year, invariably in advance. This paper, before its change of name, had secured a much greater circulation than that of any Medical Journal in New England, Botanic or Allopathic, and had received numerous testimonials of high approbation. Its number of subscribers will now be still more increased. It is designed for DOMESTIC as well as for PROFESSIONAL use, and should be in every family. All remittances and communications pertaining to it, should be directed, post paid, to the Editor. Any person forwarding, post paid, the names of four subscribers, and remitting \$4, shall receive a fifth copy gratis.

---

**F. L. COX,**

**BOOK, JOB, AND CARD PRINTER,**

*No. 10, Central Exchange, Worcester, Mass.*

# NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanic-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I.

WORCESTER, MS., APRIL 16, 1847.

No. 8.

---

## Home Department.

### OUR CAUSE.—ITS PROGRESS.

BY DR. E. A. ALLEN.

Ms. Boston:—Is it not cheering to see, not only individuals giving their influence in aid of truth, but whole legislative bodies—the representatives of the sovereign people of different States—turning, with all soberness and gravity, to the consideration of the ways and means for protecting the community from medical imposition and charlatanism? Is it not refreshing to see the people arousing from the stertorous nappings of so many centuries, buckling on the armor of truth, and battling manfully the old dilapidated superstructure, which was reared and has stood so long on the rotten basis of poisons? Ought it not to fill the heart of every friend of humanity with joy, to behold the multitudes, so long shorn of their strength and bound in ignorance with the flaxen hands of sophistry, rallying their narcotized and benumbed senses, and, in the might of their majesty, with full-grown locks, laying hold of the pillars of the Allopathic temple, and making a systematic powerful struggle to overthrow it upon its Philistine worshippers? Passing events answer affirmatively. The phenomena of nature,—the murmuring breeze, as it rustles among the leaves of our majestic forests,—the gadding brook, as it leaps from its mountain home, and rushes, in its meandering course, through our verdant valleys, gaining strength and importance at every step,—the aromatic odors of the vegetable kingdom, as they enliven and invigorate with their grateful perfume—catch and re-echo the all-significant *yes*. The low murmurings, glad voices, and pleasant smiles, all pregnant with hope and cheerfulness, to be seen and heard in every hum-

let, and by every fire-side, throughout the land, are all euphonous with the loud *amen*.

We see thus occasion for congratulation and rejoicing in various parts of the country. The South and the West are awake. Not merely have the common people aroused, but the scales have also fallen from the eyes of their representatives. Not only have Botanic Practitioners been encouraged, patronized, and abundantly sustained, but Colleges have been legalized, where students may be instructed and qualified in all the branches of medical science. Ohio, Georgia, Virginia, &c. have thus spoken. The influence of their united voice is passing through the country like electricity. The other States may not do as much, but they will all do something towards breaking down the old Allopathic tree, whose dark branches have overspread all countries, and whose Upas-poison has scattered devastation and death among all people. The great ball of Reform has been set in motion, and it cannot be arrested in its course, till its pulverizing influence has been felt by every old-school Institution in the country,—till it has lopped off and crushed the last root and limb of this great and prolific source of abominations. Heaven speed the work.

Maine, you will recollect, passed a law, something like a year ago, forbidding the sale, on severe penalty, of any nostrum, without, at the same time, making known the ingredients of its compound, by label. This is a good and salutary law, as far as it goes. It augurs well for the increasing intelligence of the people, as well as for the praiseworthy intentions of their legislators. Franklin has said, that "every little makes a mickle;" and so it is in this case. Every blow, aimed at secret nostrums, which are generally made up of virulent poisons, has its influence. It tells well for Reform, and adds another chime in the death-knell of error. It is equivalent to a frank admission, that *poisons* are not suited to the wants of the people, as *remedies* for their various infirmities. Hence, they must not be palmed off in disguise.

But, Mr. Editor, Vermont has gone further than this. She has not only enacted a law similar to that passed by the legislature of Maine, in relation to nostrums, but interwoven a section on the subject of poisons, which entirely eclipses every other feature, and which, if enforced, will ultimately seal the fate of the old-school Practice in that State. The section referred to makes it the "duty of every apothecary, physician, or other person who keeps, or has in his possession, or vends any active poison, to keep or vend the same in a box, bottle, or phial of a triangular form, with a written or printed label upon the same, containing the name of the article, and also the word POISON in large distinct letters, and to keep such poison separate from all other medicines." Perhaps the people of no other State in the Union, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, have seen more of the poisoning effects of calomel, than those of Vermont; and, for this reason, as well as for their discriminating intelligence, the *prejudice*, (as our blue-pill and lancet friends are disposed to call it,) against this drug is more deeply rooted than in any other State. No wonder, then, that the representatives of the people should take this matter in hand. No wonder, that they should set about devising some

way to "prevent imposition and accident in the sale of medicine," as the title of their act significantly indicates.

Enforce this law, to the letter, and what will be the consequences? Is it not plain, that the people, however deficient they may be in medical knowledge, will, at once, become acquainted with the alarming extent to which they are drugged with mineral and vegetable poisons? What a frightful array of "triangular-formed boxes, bottles, and phials" will rise up, as if by enchantment, in the sick man's chamber, as the old-school doctor makes his daily visit; and how like the plague-spot,—how like death itself will that short, comprehensive word "poison" stare the poor sick man in the face? The result will be a change of doctors. The people will not be poisoned with their eyes open. The "*shut your eyes and open your mouth*" system of medicine will go into disrepute faster than ever wooden nutmegs did. But it may be said, that this law is too ultra,—that it cannot be enforced,—or that it will be repealed at the next session of the legislature. What then? Will it not have its influence? Will it not operate as an incentive to investigation, and thus bring truth and error into combat? If so, who fears the result?

"Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again."

These facts speak well for the progress of Medical Reform, and point, with unerring certainty, to the time of its ultimate triumph. They teach us, that an all-powerful and diffusive influence is abroad,—that the lives of our fellows can no longer be experimented upon and jeopardized with impunity.

## FEVER MALTREATED.

DR. NEWTON:—Your paper, which was rather a mysterious stranger at first, bears acquaintance well. You will, no doubt, be glad to receive reports of cases, especially such as exhibit a triumph over the old unnatural practice. I will give you one.

Mr. S., a prominent citizen of this village, was taken sick, in the early part of October last, with what was ultimately called a fever. But, as no fever was epidemical at the time, I think it was no other than what often arises from cold in the autumn, and is easily thrown off. He employed a regular; and, in spite of the doctor's prescriptions, his health rallied; he journeyed to Pittsfield, and otherwise attended to his business. But, when once under treatment, there was no escaping a course of sickness. He became worse, and employed another regular, who set about poisoning him even more desperately than the first. Instead of the simple means required to remove the effects of the cold, calomel and blue pills were his remedies. He would have his bowels constipated, at one time, by Dover's powders; at another, they must be moved by calomel. A severe cough had come on, attended with the most profuse expectoration, together with considerable pain and heat about the chest. To relieve these a *mercurial* plaster was ordered. The patient was now

dangerously sick, and the first physician was again called in attendance. But nothing more efficient was done. Probably a sufficient supply of food would have enabled the patient to have held out better; but, in addition to poisoning, he was starved. He was reduced to a skeleton: His limbs were cold; and, when the skin was pinched up, it would remain some time in that unusual position. Congress water was ordered to be drunk in large quantities; and, however beneficial it may be in some cases, yet in this, as there was no effort to determine it to the surface, it, no doubt, produced an excessive determination both to the lungs and the kidneys. Under such practice as this, of which I have given but a faint idea, the gentleman, but lightly indisposed at first, was reduced to the lowest typhoid stage of fever. About this time, notwithstanding the evidences of putrescency, the doctor, for some sage reason, made an issue upon his ankle. As a natural consequence, it became gangrenous. In fact, it might be said to be mortified; for it was black, and gave out such a stench as repeatedly to drive the nurses from the room. What he raised from the lungs, also, had a similar putrid smell. The reader must not think, that the patient got through his sickness as fast as I have run over this sketch of it; for this stage of the disease had not occurred until the middle of January. He was then in a fit condition to send for a Thomsonian. The family thought his limb was mortified. The doctor gave no encouragement; and, in despair, they sent for me. He was too low to admit of a course of medicine at first; but I immediately set about a natural and health-restoring practice, such as any judicious Botanic physician would pursue. Lobelia, in broken doses, was freely used in the form of the stomach pills, cough balsam, &c. Composition was also freely used. A compound which I found to act very favorably was made of white root, black cohush, and cayenne. But not the least remedy that was immediately employed, was poultices, containing charcoal, for the issue. Charcoal, for this use, should be fresh from the pit, or, if old, it should be recalcined in a covered boiler. The result was, my patient soon began to amend, to the great annoyance of the regulars. But a patient so near dead, cannot be wholly restored in a week. He is, however, now beginning to go out of doors. His digestive system was so impaired by the mineral poisons, that he raised great quantities of wind; but he is now getting the better of this. The torpidity of the liver and bowels I find to be very well corrected by small doses of bitter root. When his pulse becomes too rapid, it is remarkable that the vapor bath will reduce it. This is, no doubt, caused by throwing the blood into the inactive capillaries, and thus relieving the heart.

In conclusion, I must say, that our practice is gaining ground, notwithstanding I have seven regular physicians to contend with. But yesterday, I visited and prescribed for twenty-one patients; and, if you do not get another report of a case from me very soon, it will not be because I have none, but rather because I have too many. Success to your College.

Respectfully yours,

E. N. BAZZEE.

North Adams, March 17th, 1847.

## LECTURES ON PHYSIOLOGY.

We are highly gratified to see so large a number of the citizens of Worcester attending the lectures of Dr. Darling. We are fully convinced, that, if the mass of our community could become well acquainted with the various functions of the human system, they would soon abandon the Old-School Practice of Medicine; for they would see, that this matter of giving poisons, and bleeding, and blistering is at war with the laws which govern the healthy action of the system. They would very soon see the difference between reducing the strength by bleeding, and the invigorating process of nature by sweating. They would see how peculiarly fitted our Vapor Bath is to keep that important organ, *the skin*, in a healthy condition. In fine, if the doctor's auditors would apply the wholesome truths which he has taught them, to the Botanic Practice of Medicine, they would be surprised, to see how exactly, all the principles of Physiology are adapted to our system, and how consistent with the laws of health that system is.

We wish the doctor much success, and we firmly believe, that, in proportion as the natural laws of life become known and well understood, will the services of Old-School physicians be dispensed with, and those of such as are of the New-School be required to restore the constitutions broken down by the use of poisons.

The great body of our citizens are more ignorant of the science of medicine and of the laws of the animal economy, than of any other art or science; and yet this knowledge is very little sought after, or thought of by them. The parent considers it very desirable, that his child should be early taught the fundamental branches of a common education; yet Physiology, or the laws of health and life, are little cared for. Hence, there is more ignorance on this subject or profession, than on any other. The great body of the people have more or less knowledge of Law and Theology; but, alas! how ignorant are they of Medicine! Hence, the community become so "*doctor ridden*," and so deceived.

Let the people be enlightened on the subject of medicine, and the fol- lies and inconsistencies of the Old-School system will be discovered, and the true principles will prevail. [C.]

## A VOICE FROM NEWBURYPORT.

[The following is a part of a letter from Dr. H. T. Packer. Besides what we here present our readers, the Dr. sends us cheering information of the interest taken in our paper, the increasing prevalence of rational medical views, &c. &c.; but his remarks on these topics we are obliged to omit to give space for other matter. [Ed. JOUR.]

DR. NEWTON—*Dear Sir*—Permit me to address to you a few hasty lines, which if you think worthy a corner in your highly valuable and commanding little sheet, you are at liberty to publish for the benefit of your many readers; as they are always, I believe, cheered and gratified

to learn that the cause of Medical Reform is going on "conquering and to conquer."

That such is the case, particularly in this section of the country, can no longer be hid from the most casual observer; and, as it respects our prospects in this town, (Newburyport,) nothing could be more flattering. We number now, I believe, something like eight or nine thousand inhabitants, with about seven or eight very respectable old-school physicians, most of whom have enjoyed the almost undivided attention of many of the fairest and most intellectual sons and daughters of this flourishing place. But, Mr. Editor, a new era is dawning. The spirit of inquiry has gone abroad, and will not—cannot return, until the result is fully made known, and the invalid is taught to believe, that, to be well and to be happy, he has only to let poisons alone, and leave all those that use them to take care of themselves, while he is engaged in studying the laws of his nature, in observing which there is great reward.

It was my intention, when I came to this town, about five weeks ago, to confine myself to the superintendence of a Botanic Medicine Store, for my brethren who were here planting the standard of Reform, and sowing fresh from nature's garden, the seed that should be for the healing of invalids. But no sooner was my intention announced to the friends of humanity, than I was urged to go immediately into the field, and take part in the great drama of this God-like improvement.

Believing, as I do, Mr. Editor, that I could satisfy the desires of my friends, only by complying with their wishes in this respect, permit me to say, that, after much sober deliberation, I have at length come to the conclusion to go into actual service again; and I doubt not, I shall have many true and warm-hearted friends to co-operate with me in the undertaking, *as well as many enemies*. I have practiced the last three years at Great Falls, N. H.

---

## A VOICE FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE OLD BAY STATE.

MR. EDITOR:—I notice, from time to time, in your Journal, the progress which the cause of Medical Reform is making, not only in this vicinity, but throughout the country, if not the world. This is certainly cheering news. Fancy how the case stood fifteen years ago, when I commenced practice, or in other words raised the Thomsonian flag, like the lone star of Texas, opposed by all Mexico, or all the would-be-wise, self-styled great, yet ignorant many, and mixed blood of all colors. But the lone star has, in a measure, prevailed, steadily but slowly against the cunning of this gilded Aztec race. The contrast is now surprisingly great. Then the adherents of the Thomsonian cause were obliged almost to carry on their practice by night, for fear of their powerful and wealthy dictators. Now they have made so much progress, that they dare to beard the lion in his den. Now all that is wanting for Botanics is to keep a steady hand, and move forward. In doing this, they ought to keep pace with the age in literature, and promote and improve all sci-



ence that is connected with their profession. Some of my regular neighbors make quite a display and bandy of words. What, say they, what do these Botanics want to know about Anatomy and Surgery? What benefit will these branches be to them? Cannot they give pepper and catnip tea, without the knowledge of Surgery?

There is one idea I wish to convey to the student in search of medical knowledge, especially one who intends to practice medicine. The first thing necessary is a good strong constitution; second, a thorough knowledge of the science of medicine; a knowledge of the human frame; and above all, a fixed determination to excel in his profession. He ought to be of even temper and steady habits, happen what may. If he possess these qualifications, (and I am sure he may obtain those relating to the sciences, or to the study of medicine in the N. E. B. M. College,) he may move on with pleasure and profit to himself, and give permanent benefit to his fellow creatures, which of itself would be ample consolation for one short life. If he take the opposite course, he will appear, to himself and the world, much like a Regular Mineral Quack, or, more particularly, a dog running and plunging after game in a field of tall hemp; the whole chase will be a hunt of vexation and uncertainty.

As to myself, I commenced practice in the cold centre of New England, rendered doubly cold by the coldness of the calculating geniuses of the ever calculating Yankees, who generally make dollars and cents their polar star. They had no time to investigate this or that theory. No, sir, when pale disease had checked the progress of their limbs, and thrown them on their *beam-end*, then they would try to collect their scattered ideas; and, when all other means had failed, some of them would permit me to make a trial. The medicine worked to a charm. Nearly all were cured; some improved; none killed. Happy result. People began, for the first time in health, to think and act for themselves. Now, as far as my knowledge extends, more than half of the people are Thomsonians.

If this is true, and I believe it is, it is time that we fix upon some generous plan of meeting and treating our mistaken and misguided brethren of the old school, notwithstanding the injury their position in society has caused.

Yours,

ASA McCOLLUM.

*Leicester, March 24th, 1847.*

## OUR PRINCIPLES.

BY PROF. G. J. COOK.

At no period, perhaps, since the commencement of the great work of medical reform, in which we profess to be engaged, have we been called to occupy so responsible a station as at this time. We ought to watch over the principles which we have espoused, and endeavor so to direct

their progress as, not only to defend them from the attacks of open enemies, but more especially to guard against those innovations, which professing friends may be disposed to make upon them.

It is a truth, not to be denied, that there are many who claim to be Thomsonians, and are really looked upon as such by those unacquainted with what entitles a man to this appellation, who, so far from accelerating its triumphs, are actually crippling its best directed efforts. They have departed, not only in point of simplicity, but in *principle*, from that path discovered by the researches of Thomson, and which, we believe, leads to the great Temple of Medical Truth. It may be, those to whom we allude do not view their course, in this particular, in the same light that we do; they may suppose that they have renounced only its errors—and that, as precious metals are purified by fire, so in their hands has Thomsonism been purified, giving to its residue a concentration in point of truth, to which before it could not lay claim. While we are not of the number who claim for Dr. Thomson "*oracular wisdom*," and as being consequently incapable of erring, we must be allowed to say, that we view the Thomsonian Principles as correct,—and any alteration of them, as undermining the great medical superstructure which he spent his life in rearing.

Were the evil of which we are now speaking, confined to those who occupy humble stations in the ranks, it might, with some propriety, have been overlooked—but, unfortunately it is found to have "*crept into high places*;" and, if not boldly attacked, will affect materially the great interest that, as Thomsonians, we have at stake.

It will be remembered, that, when the propriety of erecting the S. B. M. College was first agitated, it was opposed by some from an apprehension, that, if ever our system was made the subject of College teaching, the time would come, when its friends would be called to mourn over, if not an amalgamation of the two systems, at least an abandonment of *original* land-marks, and a transformation from primitive simplicity to all the intricacies of its predecessor, thus rendering, if it were possible, the last state of the world, in a medical point of view, infinitely worse than the first. Viewing the subject in this light, they withheld their support, and it was not until the scheme was put into operation, that they were disposed to give it countenance. But, to their credit be it spoken, as soon as they became satisfied that their apprehensions were unfounded, they came forward nobly, and identified themselves with the friends of the Institution.

The different chairs of the Institution are filled this session with six Professors, and the friends may rest satisfied that none other than *correct Thomsonian principles* are instilled into the minds of those who make up our respectable class. The time which has elapsed since a regular and systematic course of instruction was adopted, so far from weakening their faith, has added to it,—they having seen that every correct medical principle found in the books of our allopathic brethren, which, in the discharge of our respective duties, we are called upon to review, swells the amount of evidence in favor of the truth.

Occupying, then, the prominent stand before the Thomsonian fraternity which, as teachers, we are necessarily compelled to do, we deem it

our duty, at the commencement as it were of an era in our history, to pledge anew our faith, that we will continue both in *word* and *deed*, steadfast to those principles bequeathed to us by Dr. Samuel Thomson, and will do all in our power to diffuse their truths—looking forward with confidence and delight to that period, when his “standard shall have been reared on every hill, and its folds wave in triumph o’er every valley.”—*Americus, Ga.*

### MODUS OPERANDI OF LOBELIA.

DR. C. NEWTON—*Dear Sir*:—As various opinions exist among physicians, in regard to the therapeutic or curative properties of lobelia, I wish to offer my opinion on the subject. Dr. Curtis has given it as his opinion, that its relaxing influence is nearly, if not all, which it exerts upon the vital organs; and he denies its being the agent in producing vomiting, for the reason that it relieves fits, cramps, spasms, and lock-jaw, so immediately. For farther proof, he goes on to say, that vomiting is produced by muscular contraction, and speaks of irritation, as if vomiting could not be produced without it. His conclusion, therefore, is, that lobelia cannot be the agent in producing vomiting, as relaxation and contraction are opposite in their natures. One thing, however, is certain, which is, that, whenever lobelia is administered to a sick person, in sufficient quantity, the result is vomiting, sooner or later; and it is generally given for that purpose, or with the expectation that vomiting will be produced. Now, if lobelia is not the agent in producing vomiting, what is? Neither Dr. Curtis, nor any other writer, to my knowledge, has yet satisfactorily explained this subject; nor do I expect to be able to do more than give some few hints which may induce investigation from those more able to do the subject justice.

Anatomists and Physiologists, in general, so far as I am acquainted, agree as to the existence of two independent sets of nerves in the human system, each performing, to a certain extent, separate offices, viz: the sensitive, and the sympathetic or organic nerves. Now it is by these nerves, more particularly the sympathetic or organic, that every function of life is carried on, and without them vitality would cease; as the blood would not circulate, and the heart and lungs would lose their action, being deprived of their moving cause,—the vital principle. This moving cause, or vital principle, is inhaled by every breath, and carried through the whole system by these nerves, directing every nutritive particle of digested food to its destined place, to increase the muscular fibres, bones, and sinews,—to lubricate the joints,—or, in general, dislodging effete offending matter, to supply new materials in turn. This principle I believe to be electricity in its numerous connexions with vegetable and animal matter; and the process of removing worn-out substances, and replacing new ones suited to the wants of nature, is carried on by the power of action, known to exist between what is

termed positive and negative electricity. This I conceive to be fair reasoning, and the cause of nature's process in the human economy.

When we take a view of the animal and the vegetable kingdom, we find that each species is brought into life, arrives at a degree of maturity, and decays, after reproducing its own likeness. Man, beast, and every living thing naturally possess the power of reproduction, subject to disease and premature death. To what rational conclusion, then, can we arrive but that there are, in the vegetable kingdom, sufficient means for strengthening and invigorating nature consistent with nature's laws, and without debilitating the organs, as do poisons of every description. The requisite properties of stimulation, relaxation, and nutrition, are all found in those innocent vegetables proper for the use of man. Now I consider that lobelia enters into and invigorates the sympathetic nerves, relaxing and stimulating them to act, and carrying electricity to every part of the body. Whether lobelia possesses, in itself, and communicates more of electricity than do other vegetables, or whether its relaxing and stimulating properties, being equally combined, give such energy as to draw electricity from the surrounding elements, I will not now say; but I feel justified in believing the one case or the other to be fact, and to me it is immaterial which. I feel equally confident, that vomiting is produced by it, by action and repulsion, or by the balance of power existing between positive and negative electricity, the same as is the case in throwing off any offending matter from the system. Dr. Curtis admits, that, where there is no disease, lobelia has little or no power to relax. Now I would respectfully inquire of him, or any one else, If lobelia acts specifically, on any of the organs, as he intimates, why will it not relax a well organ, as fully as a diseased one? Again, I would inquire, If my position is not true, why does lobelia, when given in case of a fit, as soon as it touches the glands of the throat, relieve the patient? As some physicians may honestly differ in opinion from me, and think I attach too much importance to the sympathetic nerves, I will state one circumstance which has come to my knowledge in practice. I have found that all nervous fits are brought on by some displacement of organs, or by the compression of the sympathetic nerves, so as to stop the circulation of the nervous fluid, which throws the whole system into confusion; and those fits can almost instantly be stopped by artificially pressing the cause from those nerves, without the use of medicines of any kind. This I have done in very many instances, (and it has never failed me,) to the astonishment of all who have witnessed the trial; and I am bold to say, Show me a person in the struggles of a nervous fit, and I will quiet him immediately without medicine. I will then, by the use of medicines for a short time, prevent a relapse. If any one doubts, let him produce the patient, and come to the trial.

I have thought proper to present these remarks for consideration. If I am in error, let it be shown by fair reasoning. I shall esteem it a privilege to be set right. But, if my position is correct, the old-school Practice, founded on corrosive or chemical action, must appear destitute of merit, and a scourge to the community at large, although its devotees are as strongly glued to it as were the Jews to the law of Moses. I intend, at a future time, to bring forward some of the numerous reasons to sub-

stantiate the position which I have taken, and in the mean time, shall be glad to attend to any objections which may be brought against it.

I. JACOBS.

*Bangor, Me., March, 1847.*

## Southern Department.

### AN ACT,

*To Incorporate the Directors of the Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute, passed March 8th, 1847.*

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, That George Rogers, Jonathan B. Stovall, Nathaniel Mason, I. W. Redd, G. W. Redd, C. Hornsey, Benjamin Bridgforth, A. O. Daves, M. W. McCraw, H. M. Price, C. J. Kenworthy, Walker Timberlake, T. Pleasants, Geo. B. Casey, John M. Moody, and their successors, (who shall never at any time exceed fifteen in number,) be, and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate, to be styled "The Board of Directors of the Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute, to be located in the town of Petersburg," and by that name to remain in succession for the term of ninety-nine years, with full power to acquire by purchase, gift, or demise, any property, real, personal, or mixed, and to hold or convey the same under a common seal, (which they may change at pleasure,) in any way that is consistent with the interest of the Institute, and the conditions on which such property shall be obtained, and not repugnant to the laws of this State or of the United States.*

The said Directors, in their corporate capacity, may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and may enact such by-laws as they may deem necessary for the good government of themselves, or the officers and students of the College; provided, that such laws do not conflict with the constitution and laws of this State, or of the United States.

Any three of the then existing members of the Board of Directors, shall have power to call, at any time, a meeting of the Board, by giving every member at least fifteen days notice of the time and place of such meeting. Five members, when thus assembled, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and have power to choose a President of the Institute, Professors of the Sciences, and other officers and agents of the Institution; to displace entirely, for good and sufficient reasons, or remove to other departments, any or all such Professors and Officers; to prescribe the course of study to be pursued in each department of the College, and to confer on the students therein, and on other persons whom they deem worthy, such honors and degrees as are usually conferred in other kindred Institutions.

The Board of Directors, or a majority of them, shall have power, after giving at least three months notice of charges of misconduct, preferred against any member or members of such Board, upon conviction before

said Board, to expel him or them, and to fill any vacancy or vacancies occurring in said Board from expulsion of a member, or otherwise.

The President of the College shall be, *ex-officio*, President of the Board of Directors, his temporary absence at any meeting of the Board, to be supplied by an election from the members present, and constituting a quorum.

The said Board shall have power to choose a Secretary, who shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board, and a Treasurer who, if required, shall, before he is entrusted with the keeping of their funds, give bond to the Board, and their successors, in such penalty and with such security as they may require, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties; and, for any delinquency incurred by said Treasurer, the said Board may recover judgment against the said Treasurer, and his securities, his, or their executors or administrators, by motion in any court of record, upon giving ten days notice of such motion.

The funds of the Institution shall never be devoted to any other object than the promotion of education, and the annual income of its real estate shall not exceed the sum of fifteen thousand dollars.

The Board of Directors shall faithfully use all funds by them received or collected, according to the best of their judgment, in erecting suitable buildings, purchasing books, charts, maps, philosophical and chemical apparatus, and collections of natural history, and in supporting the Professors and other officers necessary to the Institution.

## POISONS NOT MEDICINES.

One of the fundamental principles of the Botanic Practice is this, that *no poison can be a remedy*. Though the old authors have given us the maxim, "*Ubi virus ibi virtus*," "Where there is poison, there there is a remedy," yet we unhesitatingly say that the maxim is false,—false as the baseless fabric of a vision. Believe it not. Though this motto comes down to us clothed in an ancient language, and with all the authority of a Galen, or of a more ancient father of physic,—though the most enlightened of the present day declare it, yet we say, believe it not. Reason and that common sense with which Divine Providence has endowed us, teach to the contrary. Give a man poison to cure disease!! This is an error which *false theories* have entailed upon this enlightened age. There are no facts in experience or philosophy to prove it. Can it be possible, that a substance which will produce death, should act as a healing agent in the curative process? Can that which takes away the principle of life, ever be used to restore the waning powers of nature? Is it *reasonable* to suppose that any article, which tends directly to weaken, irritate, or destroy an organ, can have a tendency to repair that organ or any other in the system? That some persons have recovered, after being poisoned, is only evidence, that the impeded powers of nature have removed the disease and the poisons at the same time; and it is evident, that such cases would invariably have recovered much sooner without the administration of any thing, or with such remedies as would have assisted nature in her efforts. [ C. ]

## VIRGINIA ECLECTIC MEDICAL INSTITUTE.

By reference to page, 134, of the present number, it will be seen under what circumstances our friends of the Virginia Eclectic Medical Institute have organized. The Faculty whom they have appointed, are ample in number and able in character. With the exception of ourselves, all, we understand, have accepted their appointments. We ardently wish our friends success; but two considerations prevent our filling the chair of Physiology and Pathology to which we have been elected. In the first place, our engagements at home and relations to the cause of Reform in medicine in New England will not, as it at present seems to us, allow of our being absent long enough to discharge the duties of that Professorship; and, secondly, though we may be thought a little too radical in our views, yet it appears to us, that, unless by some new-discovered principle of chemical affinity water and oil can be made to unite, our friends will be embarrassed in their operations, till they shall take higher ground in favor of that fundamental truth, that poisons are not medicines. We believe, in the language of Dr. Beach, in a recent letter to us, that "the people, in this enlightened age, will not support any Practice based on a false Theory"; and, for that very reason, they will reject the Dr.'s use of vegetable narcotic poisons, as little, if any, less injurious than corrosive minerals. We say again, as we have often said, in reference to our *orthodoxy* in the Botanic cause, our own position is uncompromising;—we are *teetotal* in our sentiments. If poisons are medicines, properly so called, let us "go the whole figure" and not be restricted in their use. If they are not, in their action, in harmony with the laws of the human economy, (and this truth is self-evident,) then let us reject them altogether. [Ed. JOUR.]

### A. GRAY, Griffin, Ga.

Keeps constantly on hand a full and fresh supply of E. Larrabee's Botanic Medicines, which he offers to Practitioners of the South on the most reasonable terms.  
April 8th, 1847.

### Thomsonian Infirmary and Medicine Store.

DR. WILLIAM CLARK may be consulted at his Infirmary, Nos. 80, and 82, Carver Street, BOSTON.

### DR. J. HOOKER,

No. 1, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets,  
WORCESTER, MASS.

We are happy in announcing, that, to meet the increasing demand for our professional services, we have secured the assistance of Dr. J. Hooker, late of East Brookfield,—a gentleman whose experience and success in Practice where he has lately resided, have gained for him the confidence of a large circle of patrons. Dr. H., in our absence, will attend to the calls of patients at our Office. He will also, when requested, wait on patients in the village and vicinity. [Ed. JOUR.]

## Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute,

PETERSBURG, VA.

The first annual Course of Lectures of the Medical Department of this Institution, chartered on the 8th of March last, (1847,) will commence on the first Monday in November next, and close on the last of February following. This Institution offers superior advantages and inducements to all students of medicine who may desire to qualify themselves *thoroughly*, as Botanic Physicians.

### FACULTY :

———, Professor of Physiology and Pathology.

A. M. BLACK, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.

C. J. KENWORTHY, M. D., Professor of Surgery.

W. BEACH, M. D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine.

E. C. BANNING, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics, &c.

HENRY M. PRICE, M. D., Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

J. THOMAS, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Forensic Medicine.

Fees for the Course, \$75. Graduation fee, \$15. Board, \$3 per week.

¶ An announcement of the Course will be sent to all who may desire it, by communicating, *post paid*, with

L. J. KENWORTHY, M. D.,

DEAN OF THE FACULTY, *pro tem*.

W. BEACH, *President*.

T. S. PLEASANTS, *Secretary*.

Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1847.

## Dr. I. Jacobs' Pills.

**LOBELIA EXTRACT PILLS.**—These Pills are prepared from the juice of the green herb, and evaporated to the consistency of a pill mass, at a temperature of about 98 degrees Fahr. This is an admirable mode of administering lobelia, and considered preferable, by those who have tried it, to all others. The Pills are used, in many cases, where vomiting is not considered necessary, and their operation is highly salutary. *Price \$ 1.00 per box, accompanied with full directions.*

**BONESET EXTRACT PILLS**, designed for biliary derangement, useful in dyspepsia, morbid state of the liver, jaundice, &c. Good also in scrofula, and consumption. *Price 33 cents per box with full directions.*

**CLOVE EXTRACT PILLS**, for purifying the blood and strengthening the system; a valuable remedy, also, in debility, nervous affections, female complaints generally. *Price 33 cents per box with full directions.*

The proprietor offers these medicines to the Profession, with full confidence, that they will meet the highest expectations.

For sale, wholesale and retail, by J. T. GILMAN PIKE, 79 and 81 Blackstone, st., Boston, Mass.

DRS. J. & BENJ. F. ABBOTT'S

## Botanic and Thomsonian Dispensary,

No. 140, Hanover Street, Boston,

(Successors to Dr. Elias Smith.)

We have on hand an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Extracts, Books, &c., which we offer for sale, wholesale and retail, at as low prices as they can be bought for in the city.

N. B. Patients attended to, as usual, in the city and vicinity.

Boston, Jan. 16, 1847.



### New England Thomsonian Depot and General Herbarium.

79 and 81, Blackstone Street, Boston, Mass.

☞ DR. J. T. GILMAN PIKE would respectfully inform his friends and the public, that he is now making an addition of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, to his former extensive stock of Thomsonian and Botanic Medicines, which will enable him to supply wholesale dealers, practitioners, and private families on better terms than any dealer in the country.

His assortment embraces all the varieties of medicines usually furnished by similar establishments, together with an extensive stock of Apothecaries' Glass Ware, Syringes, Dental and Surgical Instruments, of the most approved kinds, Trusses, Abdominal Supporters, Oils, Extracts, &c., &c., and a constant supply of Brandy, Gin, Wines, and other liquors, of the best brand, for medicinal purposes.

His whole stock has recently been submitted to a careful examination, and every article, which, from age or other causes, had deteriorated, has been removed, and he warrants his whole stock *fresh and new*.

The rapid increase of the Botanic System of Medical Practice, has produced a corresponding demand for medicine, and country traders unacquainted with prescribing have felt the necessity of keeping a small assortment of articles, suitably labelled for family use.

To meet this exigency, Dr. Pike has committed the department of Pharmacy to Dr. JAMES OSGOOD, one of the most experienced physicians in the country, whose services he has secured for five years; and he now offers for sale a large variety of new articles, of great value, which have been thoroughly tested in private practice for many years, accompanied with adequate directions for family use, and fully adapted to meet the wants of the Botanic community, in all their diseases, whether chronic or acute.

The rapid sale of these medicines, and the accumulated testimony of their efficiency, are a sure indication that the public appreciate the value of medicines, compounded by physicians of age and experience, when compared with articles thrust upon them by mere tyros in medicine, who are perfectly unacquainted with the physiological state of the system, and, if it is diseased, are incompetent, of course, to prepare remedies adapted to restore it to its normal state.

### Travelling Agents Wanted !

☞ To sell two Medical Works of great value :—COMFORT'S THOMSONIAN PRACTICE OF MEDICINE—COMFORT'S THOMSONIAN PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY. These works were written with special reference to *Family use*, and must be appreciated, by all who examine them, as the best means to preserve or restore health.

To men of integrity and business talent, with a small capital of \$50 or upwards, who are disposed to enter the business, (of the profitability of which there is no doubt,) a Circular, giving a full description of the character of the Works, the principles, prospects, and profits of the agency, will be furnished, on application personally, or by letter, *postage paid*, to

ALEXANDER HARRISON, *Superintending Agent*,  
No. 8 1-2 South 7th Street, PHILADELPHIA.

### For Sale.

☞ That well known and desirable stand, the Providence Thomsonian Dispensary and Botanic Infirmary. This excellent establishment has been in successful operation for more than six years. It is situated upon the "Popular" street. It does an excellent retail business, and something at wholesale. The proprietor is about to change his business, and would like to sell as soon as possible. A good run of business is guaranteed.

D. P. BUKER, *Proprietor*.

Providence, July 5th, 1846.

## Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory,

No. 18, Central Street....Boston, Mass.

☞ The subscribers would respectfully inform the public that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also, Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes only.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners, and others, with medicines of *superior quality*, at prices *as low as* they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put in small packages, and labelled with full directions for family use if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to.

B. OSGOOD WILSON,  
G. CARLOS WILSON

## Botanic Infirmary, and Bathing Rooms.

C. NEWTON, M. D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,

At No. 2, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets, Worcester, Mass.,

For the better accommodation of his patients, has opened that large establishment now known as above designated. Those availing themselves of the facilities which he offers at his Infirmary, will receive the most unremitting attention, and skillful treatment without poisons. Hydropathy, also, properly understood and scientifically employed he regards as little more than a constituent part of what has usually been termed the Botanic or Eclectic practice, and as the most effective and appropriate treatment, in many cases. He has, accordingly, provided for the sick, and for those who would not be sick, every suitable variety of baths—cold and warm—water and vapor—simple and medicated. "Wash and be healed," though an old fashioned prescription, is yet one of reason and common sense. If the act is too simple, in the experience, to satisfy those who have "sought out many inventions," it is more gratifying in the results, than salivated mouths, and CALOMELIZED broken-down constitutions.

## Botanic Laboratory, and Eclectic Medicines.

C. NEWTON,

☞ At his new Medicine Store, No. 1, corner of Front and Carlton streets, Worcester, Mass., keeps constantly on hand an extensive assortment of Medicines, not Poisons. He also keeps a variety of such table delicacies as are used particularly in sickness, together with various fancy and toilet articles. Terms—low prices, and cash payments. Please call.

## The New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal

Is published on the 1st and 16th of every month, by C. Newton, M. D., at No. 1, corner of Front and Carlton streets, Worcester, Mass. Each number contains sixteen pages octavo, and the numbers of one year constitute a volume. Terms—\$1 per year, invariably in advance. This paper, before its change of name, had secured a much greater circulation than that of any Medical Journal in New England, Botanic or Allopathic, and had received numerous testimonials of high approbation. Its number of subscribers will now be still more increased. It is designed for DOMESTIC as well as for PROFESSIONAL use, and should be in every family. All remittances and communications pertaining to it, should be directed, post paid, to the Editor. Any person forwarding, post paid, the names of four subscribers, and remitting \$4, shall receive a fifth copy gratis.

P. L. COX,

BOOK, JOB, AND CARD PRINTER,

No. 10, Central Exchange, Worcester, Mass.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., JUNE 1, 1847. No. 11.

---

Home Department.

ALLOPATHY EXEMPLIFIED.

"DR. NEWTON:—If you should deem it consistent with the purposes of your Botanico-Medical Journal, I would respectfully request of you to give the following statement of facts a place in its pages, hoping that some one of the many liable to the same mal-treatment may escape the tortures I have suffered, by avoiding the use of deadly poisons.

From my childhood up to the age of fourteen years, my health was feeble and delicate;—I was subject to many ill turns, and unable to bear fatigue or exposure. At the age of fifteen, my health was so much impaired, that a physician by the name of Abbott was consulted, who said I had a fever, but could not determine of what kind it was. He gave jalap, calomel, castor oil, etc., followed by oil, senna, salts, opium, and vitriol. Blistering was employed, with the above treatment, for five weeks, when Dr. J. Burnham was called. He considered my case doubtful, called my fever intermittent, gave calomel and the blue pills to salivate, opium, nitre, and antimony. Tartar and lard, as he called the preparation, (which, I have no doubt, was unguentum,) and blistering, were used externally. Salts, senna, and columbo were employed six weeks, when Dr. Hall was called. Blistering, irritating plasters, nitre, opium, salts, senna, oil, aloes, jalap, tincture of iron, salts of wormwood, soda, spirits of turpentine, ipecac, calomel, and blue pills, (the last two to produce a great degree of salivation), etc., were by him ordered for months, which only increased my suffering and agony. Dr. J. Burnham was again called, and again ordered calomel to take fourteen days, and a liquid of the same to be externally applied, without telling what it was, and left me without repeating his visit; for what reason I know not, un-



less he thought he had left sufficient medicine to make a finish of me. Dr. Hall was then, again, called, and particularly requested not to prescribe for me, unless he was confident of affording relief to my sufferings, which had, by this time, become almost insupportable. He again went over with his former treatment, with the addition of cupping, and of caustic taken internally, which was his last resort, when he left me to die, prescribing, also, opium, in large quantities. Dr. Burnham again called, and left some pills, which soon proved themselves to be the same old poisonous drug, as it produced profuse salivation. He, likewise, ordered, both as internal and external applications, some other medicine, which came near ending my days. The next doctors called were two doctors Henden. They applied a salve prepared of iodine, stricknine, and quinine to my back, and to other parts of my body. Internally, iodine, prussic acid, nitric acid, saltpetre, and salts, I drank freely daily. Caustic was applied internally for the fluor albus. Bleeding was then resorted to, but to no good effect; and I was left to die, he saying he could do no more; and, by every human eye, I was looked upon as on the very verge of the grave. Often did my friends stand around my bed, expecting to see me breathe my last expiring breath. For many months, I scarcely spoke a loud word, and oftentimes could not even whisper. I was taken from my bed but a few times for thirteen months. Thus, in short, have I stated some of the treatment I received at the hands of those who claim to be masters of the healing art; but my story is not yet complete, as at this time my sufferings comparatively were hardly begun. I was then attacked with what my physicians termed a spinal irritation, and nervous or brain fever. This was followed by nervous fits of a most distressing nature. For ten days, at a time, I laid in them, and, it was thought I had more than five hundred of them. My sufferings I will not attempt to describe, but they were so great, that it was difficult to procure help to stand by me, and witness the scene. Physicians called, but could render no relief. All thought I must soon die, but I still lived to suffer; and, for nine months, I was not taken from my bed. It then so happened, providentially, that Dr. I. Jacobs of Bangor, a former acquaintance and remote connexion of my parents, called to see me. I had not seen him for years, as he lived far from us, nor had I any knowledge of him as a physician. Being very weak and nervous, hearing him point out the cause of my sufferings so minutely, threw me into one of my fits, as the least excitement often would do. He came to me, and almost instantly stopped the fit without the use of medicine of any kind. I then took Botanic medicines under his directions. These have so far restored my health, that I am able to walk about, eat, drink, and sleep comfortably, and, in some measure, to enjoy life, contrary to the expectations of all my acquaintances. Notwithstanding, however, the great benefit which I have realized from the Thomsonian medicines, my former physicians, in their influence with others, have omitted no opportunity to abuse me, by circulating the most ridiculous slanders against the medicines which I have used, and against my physician. This kind of treatment and abuse had its origin mainly in the church of which I am a member; and, when I have requested to be heard in defence of their foul slander, I have been told, that they have nothing against *me*, but the medicines and my physi-



cian are the trouble. I will close by requesting every individual who may chance to read this, to investigate the subject of medicine carefully; and, before he gives himself up to the mercy of such unbounded dealers in poisons, to satisfy himself by trying the simple, harmless, and efficient remedies of nature. You will never regret the time and trouble necessary to ascertain the difference between the two kinds of medicine in their effects on the sick patient.

You may say my history here given is a hard one, but I can assure you, the one half is not told, nor can I give more than a faint idea of it. I cannot possess a wish, that my most bitter enemies should suffer, as I have done, for a punishment, but they have my most sincere wishes for their welfare. I have no enemies, to my knowledge, except those so deadly opposed to the Thomsonian medicines, etc.; and, when my own brethren, those of the same household of faith, neglect and abuse me, and my physician, for no good reason, as he has sustained an unblemished moral character, but being entirely beside themselves in their excitement and malice, engendered by the Old-School physicians, without reflection or investigation, I much regret the weakness of human nature, and pity them.

NANCY BURNHAM.

The writer of the above narrative is a lady about thirty years of age, of respectable parents, but in moderate circumstances. Her father paid physicians' bills, until he was not able to pay more, and she was helped by the town. Notwithstanding she ever sustained an unblemished character, and was cherished as a worthy member in the church to which she belonged, yet the physicians, being of that class whose greatest ambition consists in being able to practice deception on the people by using their influence with the church against the Thomsonian medicine, induced some of the church to report all manner of slander. Notwithstanding these physicians had no cause, they seemed willing to sacrifice an innocent female, in order to gain their points; and, she being under the care of the town, it was impossible that she should have that attention so necessary for her recovery. Her parents and friends have since taken her under their care, and a tumor, weighing two pounds, has been removed from her shoulder. The wound is healed, and she will undoubtedly regain comfortable, but not sound health. The greatest wonder is, that she should have lived through such treatment. Her sufferings, in every respect, I am persuaded, have been caused by the treatment which she has received; as that, no doubt, brought on her fits, and destroyed the energies of her nature to such a degree, that an entire restoration is not to be expected.

I. JACOBS.

### IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

A learned Belgian, M. Maindle, has recently discovered a very simple means of distinguishing between real, and apparent, death. It consists in creating a small burn. If there is life, a blister always is formed, even in the absence of all apparent sensibility. If death has already intervened, nothing of the kind occurs.

*From the Bangor Whig and Courier.*

## DR. COMINGS.

[The following commendatory notice of a recent lecture of our friend and associate, Dr. C., shows in what light his talents are received by the acquaintances of his earlier days. We take pleasure in saying, that the commendation is fully merited. Indeed, properly to estimate his talents and worth, one must be intimate with his professional habits, and his walks in private life. ED. JOUR.]

Professor Isaac M. Comings, of Macon, Georgia, formerly of this city, delivered a lecture in this city on Friday evening last, in defence of the Botanic System of Medical Practice. The lecture was one of much interest, and displayed a very thorough acquaintance with the various systems of Medical Practice. The style was happily adapted to the plain and familiar manner in which the subject was treated. Few men have the capacity of unfolding the laws of health, and the effect of disease, and the action of medicines upon the human system, with the clearness of Professor Comings. At the close of his lecture an opportunity was given for proposing questions and stating objections. This was improved, and gave much interest to the occasion, and elicited a large stock of information.

Professor Comings is a thoroughly educated man, and sustains a high reputation as a medical lecturer and successful practitioner.

It is gratifying to us to know, that those who, a few years since, were boys in our streets, are making their mark upon their age, and contributing to the advancement of science, and the welfare of mankind.

## UNION IS STRENGTH.

[The Medical Enquirer, lately published at Fall River and Middleboro', Mass., has closed its existence. One of its editors, in its last number, offers the reasons for its discontinuance, and recommends, to its subscribers, to take some Botanic Periodical in its stead. He speaks favorably of several. The following are his remarks respecting the Journal. ED. JOUR.]

"The New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, published at Worcester, is the organ of the New England Botanic College, and will fairly represent the cause in this part of the country. It should be in the hands of every Botanic in the State. We have a work to do in securing a charter for the College, and *it must be done*. The circulation of the Journal is important in this respect, to say nothing of the advantage it will be to its subscribers personally."

## MISCELLANEOUS RECIPES.

*Cough Syrup.*—Take the root of acoras calamus, [sweet flag,] slice it up, and steep it in molasses. Dose,—a tea-spoonful, three or four times daily. This is often very serviceable in removing chronic coughs.

*Diuretic Pills.*—Take white-pine turpentine, work in cayenne to form a pill mass, and roll this in slippery elm. Make into 3 grain pills. Dose, —3 or 4 every morning. Useful in uterine and cystic inflammation.



## Southern Department.

### INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

BEFORE THE STUDENTS OF THE SOUTHERN BOTANICO-MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
at the Commencement of the 7th Course of Lectures, Nov. 3rd, 1846.

BY PROF. G. J. COOK.

GENTLEMEN :—

It is a source of no small gratification to my colleagues and myself to be permitted to meet so many, who, after an absence of a few months, have returned to prosecute still further, under their direction, the study of those great principles of science which are here taught. For this evidence of the estimate which you have been pleased to place on our past efforts, I would tender you, in behalf of the Faculty, their thanks, and, at the same time, assure you, that the pleasure which we feel by this second association is enhanced by the proof which it gives, that you are not unmindful of the claims which the profession of your choice has upon you, and that you are determined to co-operate with them and other similar associations in their efforts to remove, from the escutcheon of Thomsonism the stain of ignorance, with which it has been so long disgraced.

To the respectable number, who, for the first time, have cast in their lots with us, I say, permit me, in behalf of the Board and Faculty, to bid you welcome. The profession, in the study of which you have engaged, is one intimately connected with the well-being of the human family. To it has been assigned the guardianship of man's physical well-being. It is, therefore, a matter of no small consequence, that you should have a proper conception of the profession the study of which you are to pursue in this Institution;—a profession which, while it holds forth the richest rewards, demands the greatest amount of sacrifice, the most patient investigation, perpetual study, and untiring application.

A review of the history of medicine shows, that it has been appreciated, or is a field in which some of the ablest men, of every age, have been employed. Its advancement has called into exercise all their powers of mind; and, in no other department of science can there be found greater evidence of intellectual developement. Actuated by the praiseworthy desire of lessening, as much as possible, human suffering, sacrifices have been cheerfully made, which have promised greater safety to the barque of life on its passage down the stream of time.

But, notwithstanding the vast amount of intellectual strength which has been employed in this field, its progress has not been commensurate with the zeal of its cultivators; and the compensation realized, by those who have thus faithfully labored, has been small. Especially do we regret, that so little comparative benefit has resulted to mankind.

While the labors of our medical fathers deserve to be gratefully remembered by us, we are, nevertheless, astonished,—they enjoying the advantages they did,—at their defects, at the time the Thomsonian Banner of Medical Reform was unfurled.

It has been very justly remarked, that, “in a retrospective glance at



the history of medicine, we behold doctrine following doctrine in endless succession, as wave succeeds wave on the ocean, or as the foliage of autumn falls to be succeeded by the leaves of spring. One theory appears upon the stage, culminates for a while in meridian splendor, and then sinks down into obscurity and night, with all that have passed before."

Alas! for suffering humanity, this picture is but too faithfully drawn. Its correctness will be endorsed by those who have attempted its investigation. In your review of that system of practice you must have been astonished at the number of exploded theories, which, at different times, have received the support of the profession.

The instability which characterizes the history of medicine, is the result of a want of correct premises. It matters not what is the skill and ingenuity displayed in the erection of an edifice; if the foundation upon which it rests be improperly laid, its perpetuity is proportionately jeopardized. A system of medical practice predicated upon any other indications than those which are pointed out by the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, cannot be permanent. The substitution of man's speculations for nature's positive commands, in this particular, constitutes the great barrier to its advancement and permanency. It is this that has rendered it so inefficient, subjected it to the ridicule of some of its own votaries, brought down upon it the denunciations of thousands, and well nigh closed against it the door of science.

It has been a matter of astonishment to those who have been taught to view the operations of nature through a different glass, that the great mass of the profession should be led so far astray, and that so many of them are still groping their way in darkness,—arraying themselves in opposition to the powers of life, under the conviction, that, in so doing, they are rendering nature efficient aid in her hour of need. May it not, of a truth, be said of them, "that they are ignorant in an age of light,—poor amidst mines of wealth."

The views which have been maintained with regard to the character of disease, and the remedies with which their indications have been met, are enough to strike every unprejudiced mind with astonishment. The truth of this remark, will, I doubt not, be sufficiently satisfactory to you,—if it is not already,—before the close of the present session. Professing, as they do, to have traversed every lane and avenue of the organization,—to have familiarized themselves with the varied operations, in both a normal and an abnormal state, we certainly had a right to expect, as a result of these advantages, more correct deductions in regard to the nature of disease. "It should be borne in mind," says a writer, "that there are first principles in medicine, as well as philosophy, which are invariable, and incontrovertible,—which, like the stars of the firmament in guiding the mariner, will, if properly understood, conduct the student to correct conclusions in regard to disease." Suffer me to inquire, whether these principles are "properly understood" by the opponents of our system. May we not confidently answer, No? If they are, why are their "conclusions" so "uncertain," and dissimilar, and undergoing such perpetual changes? Why is there no more *certainly* in their practice? Why do we behold instability written upon every thing pertaining to the sci-



ence of medicine, as taught in a majority of the Medical Colleges of the country,—by the Professor in all the pride and pomp of his elevated station, and by the more humble practitioner, coming forward with new theories, and, as a consequence, with different modes of treatment.

Surely, so far from being led by the hand of nature, they have seemingly disregarded all her laws, turned a deaf ear to all her teachings, choosing to pursue their investigations by the dim and uncertain light of fanciful speculation, rather than under the guidance of true philosophy.

How discouraging must such a state of things as this be to the young man first entering upon the study of medicine. He finds his way hedged up with conflicting doctrines, and strewn with the fragments of exploded theories. With all the zeal and ardor of youth, he commits himself to the guidance of the sage Cullen; but, ere he is fairly on his way, he finds, that he is traversing a path long since deserted. He turns next to the venerable Rush; but the foundation upon which his principles were based, has not been sufficiently strong to withstand the assaults made upon them, and they, too, have given place to more favored views. Thus baffled, he turns away in disgust, or prosecutes his studies as best he can,—devoid of principle,—the slave of chance.

How much more encouraging the prospects by which you are surrounded! How much less rugged the path and more certain the good before you! The most of the obstacles with which the allopathic student has to contend, have been overcome by the philosophy of Thomsonism. As water flows from its fountain, so has Dr. Thomson, tracing every cause to its effect, discovered the true source of disease. He has developed the connection between the powers of life and disease, and proved conclusively, that, successfully to combat the latter, we must strengthen the forces of the former. He has rebuilt the altar, which, since the days of Hippocrates has lain in ruins, and enkindled thereon a light, never to be extinguished. Around this altar, gentlemen, we worship. Guided by its light, thousands, yea millions, have made safe their retreat from worse than Babylonish bondage. No “temple unroofed and cracked at its foundation,” totters above our heads, threatening to engulf us in ruins; but a building more perfect in all its parts,—its foundation TRUTH.

“From ostentation, as from weakness, free,  
It stands, like the Cerulean arch we see,  
Majestic in its own simplicity.”

I would not, however, have you conclude, that, since, with all their boasted knowledge in regard to the anatomical structure of the body, together with the other collateral branches of which a medical education consists, so little, comparatively has been accomplished, it is unnecessary, that you should spend much of your time in attempting to fathom their mysteries, and that a slight acquaintance with them is all that is necessary. If this be the opinion which you have formed, let me persuade you,—as you value the perpetuity of Thomsonism, and regard your own interest,—to entertain it no longer. The individual to whom we owe our professional existence may have been comparatively deficient in this particular; still, this fact by no means, does away the necessity which has ever existed, that the anatomical and functional organization of man

should be understood by those who attempt to restore its impaired or deranged operations.

Forming, as such information does, the very ground-work of medicine, you cannot fail to see, that it has strong claims upon your attention. Notwithstanding the attempt which has been made, by a few, to show that the duties of the physician need no qualifications of this sort, it must be admitted, that, while much may be done without the assistance of these collateral branches, the necessities of diseased man cannot otherwise be so promptly and efficiently met, as they may be by the aid drawn from this source. Hailing the doctrine of the unity of disease, as bringing its various forms under the control of a certain course of treatment, the early followers of Dr. Thomson, and even Thomson himself, were disposed to look on such assistance as of little consequence. It is true, that Thomson, seemingly independent of such advantages, has done as much, if not more, for the promotion of the healing art, than any other man,—has given to it an impetus unparalleled in its history. Still, this triumph of comparatively uncultivated mind over the learned and wise cannot be considered as establishing a general rule,—as setting aside the necessity of an acquaintance with the collateral branches of medicine. Our deficiency, in this respect, has constituted the greatest barrier to our success. I am free to admit, that the science of medicine is encumbered with much that is useless; but that the qualifications for which we are contending, constitute any portion of it, I cannot believe. So far is this from being true, that their suppression will destroy the only hope of further improvement. Shall the machinist be required to acquaint himself with the different parts of the steam engine before he is entrusted with the repair of its injuries, and yet the physician be ignorant of the organization of man? Surely not. His responsibilities are of too momentous a character to justify the omission of such important qualifications. The simplification of the science, by the researches of Thomson, does not authorise such a conclusion. It falls short of overcoming the necessity which has ever existed, that those who are placed as guardians over the lives of their fellow men, should be familiar with both the structure of the body and its functional operations, as well as the changes incident to disease.

Information of this character seems naturally inseparable from the profession of medicine. The necessity for this knowledge among us may not be so absolute,—without it you may be able, assisted as you are, by superior light,—to penetrate further into the true condition of diseased man than the members of the opposite school. Still, a practitioner who is deficient in this respect, labors under many serious disadvantages, and cannot expect to attain a very elevated station; while another who has availed himself of these aids, not only secures the confidence of the community, but discharges his professional duties with a promptness which ever distinguishes the intelligent practitioner from the pretender.

Let not the fact, that, notwithstanding the attention which has been paid to these sources of professional distinction and usefulness, so little has been done, discourage you. These helps constitute, I assure you, the only foundation upon which we can successfully predicate our professional existence. It is only by familiarizing yourselves with them that you can appreciate the truth of these principles, upon the merits of



which you must stand or fall; and he who fails to avail himself of the important aid which they afford, can be considered in no other light, than as being criminally ignorant of the high responsibilities reposed in every member of the profession.

The claims which these branches have upon you are not confined exclusively to you as professional men. To know ourselves has been declared enough for man to know. In what way, permit me to ask, can we make such proficiency in obtaining this knowledge of ourselves, in one sense, as in investigating what, not only explains the mystery of our organization, but teaches us the nature of those laws by which we are enabled to resist the influence of causes tending unceasingly to our destruction? What can be more interesting to the individual who, endowed liberally by the hand of nature, seeks a subject for contemplation that will give him a just perception of the infinite wisdom of the great Author of his being, than to study the formation of his own body,—familiarizing himself with his physical constitution, beginning with the first ultimate filament, which constitutes the nucleus of organic matter, and following it through its successive stages of development, until he beholds, as the result of this small beginning, the formation of the entire solids of the body? What is better calculated than the skill and design manifested in the arrangement of the different organs for the preservation of the body, and the harmony which distinguishes the organism, to convince such a man, that the “hand that formed him must have been *divine*?” This conviction is irresistibly forced upon him. By this means he is led to contemplate the relation which he sustains to this great Creative power; and, becoming satisfied that there is an intimate connection between them, and having his convictions based upon such a foundation, if he does not violence to every feeling of his nature, which proclaims the justness of his homage, he must acknowledge and worship Israel’s God. Tell such a one, that what has struck him with such force, as establishing the divinity of man’s origin, is the result of chance, and you offer an insult to his judgment, the more unpardonable, from the fact, that, it is after this investigation, that he has formed his conclusions. In this way the door of infidelity is effectually closed.

It has been held, that a knowledge of the mechanism of the eye, is, of itself, a cure for atheism. How much more impossible is it for so debasing a belief to find a place in the breast of the individual who has, not only acquainted himself with this truly wonderful organ, but added to this a familiarity with the structure and function of every tissue and organ of the body! He cannot fail to observe that contrivance,—that conformity to principles which their construction and arrangement display, affording a manifestation, to him conclusive, that intelligence, not of an earthly character, has been called into operation,—that it is the workmanship of him who is the fountain of all perfection, and the source of all good. In prosecuting your studies thus far, you, doubtless, have not only found much to examine, but acquired information that will be of value to you in after life. In their further pursuit there will be unfolded to you still more of the hidden mysteries of man’s organization. Guided by the light of Thomsonism, each successive step, will, not only increase your admiration for the Author of your being, but the better qualify you for the discharge of the responsible duties of your calling.

Who that feels an interest in the cause of medical reform, does not rejoice at its present position before the world? Its elevation is rendered more conspicuous when contrasted with its humble origin. Those of you who are familiar with the early history of Dr. Thomson, are aware, that it was not his fortune to be rocked in the cradle of wealth, and ushered upon the stage of action sustained by a long ancestral influence. Called, by the necessities of his own family and those of his neighbors, from the retirement of his farm, to stay the ravages of disease,—unknown to fame,—he stepped boldly into the arena of professional strife, a competitor for its honors, the advocate of principles in medicine directly the reverse of those generally believed, and thrown into collision with men of talent and influence. A fearful disparity this, surely! Notwithstanding the most bitter persecutions he presses onward; and, despite the most active efforts of his opponents, succeeds in rearing upon the Granite Hills of his own New Hampshire, the standard of Medical Reform.

I desire no stronger evidence of the correctness of his principles than is furnished in a review of their history. What, save *truth*, could have survived the ordeal through which they have passed? They have been preserved, “like the ark amidst the waters,” and are destined to exist so long as there is a fevered brow to cool, or an agitated nerve to quiet. Rear high the monuments by which you may perpetuate the memory of the renowned in arms, or in the councils of the nation. The laurels of Thomson, reaped in a different field, are not thus dependent for their perpetuity; but, as has been beautifully remarked, “so long as a single pod of capsicum ripens beneath the burning sun of Africa, or a modest blossom of lobelia decks the waste places of our western hemisphere,—while vapor continues to obey the laws of gravitation, and rises to commingle with the clouds, or the last drop of blood flows in the veins of the last man, so long will the founder of the Thomsonian system receive the homage of a grateful people.”

Permit me, gentlemen, to congratulate you upon the choice you have made of a profession. The perpetuity of our system is no longer problematical. It has taken its station among the reputable sciences of the age. The infant of yesterday has become the giant of to-day. The field which it affords to the young aspirant for professional emolument and distinction, is of the most fruitful character. I am satisfied, however, that, while this is the case, its fruits can be gathered only by such as are actively engaged in its culture. To such as are determined to prosecute their studies with diligence and zeal, I would say, that “a golden harvest will spring up beneath your feet, and laurelled trophies will deck your brows.”

Before bringing these remarks to a close, suffer me to inquire whether you have properly estimated the character of the profession which you have chosen. Have you reflected upon its responsibilities,—upon the intimate relationship which it establishes between yourselves and man's dearest interests; and considered that, to discharge its duties with efficiency, requires no small amount of sacrifice on your part? Real distinction in the profession of medicine is only to be attained by close attention to your books, and by watching at the bedside of the sick. You will be called upon to “turn away from the blandish-



ments of pleasure, the delightful converse of friends, the fascinations of the social circle, to trim your lonely midnight lamp ;—you must leave the gay and festive scene to familiarize yourselves with the sick, the dying, and the dead.” It is not with man in all the strength and vigor of life with whom you have to do. “It is the province of the physician to study humanity in its weakness, its most distressing and appalling forms, in decay and ruin.” It has been very truly remarked, that “such employment as this calls for the development of the noblest faculties, and affords exercise for the most exalted benevolence and heavenly charity.” To your care will be committed, if your labors are appreciated, “the dearest interests of life, and even life itself,—the life of the husband and the father, surrounded by his lovely, his helpless dependents,—the life of the wife and the mother, in which life are bound up the dearest interests of existence,—the life of youth, in the brightness of its beauty, its promises,—the life of genius, of virtue, of practical usefulness, in its maturity,—and the life of tender infancy. To the physician, under Providence, are committed these paramount interests of the present life ; and, further, the inappreciable interests of the life to come, in so far as they are dependent upon the contingencies of the life that now is. And, when he shall be able to measure the strength of those ties which bind human hearts together, and the anguish of their dissolution,—when he can tell over all the desolation of the states of widowhood and orphanage,—when he can gauge the dimensions of that infinite tenderness which unites the yearning heart of the mother to her infant of days, and calculate the value,—the possible value of one hour’s reprieve to a dying sinner,—then will he have formed an approximate estimate of its responsibilities.”

With this faithful portraiture of the responsible duties you are soon to assume, how important is it, that you be industrious in the acquisition of such knowledge as will qualify you successfully to discharge them ! Can it be possible, that there is one in this hall, who is willing to suffer the present opportunity to pass without availing himself, to the utmost extent, of its benefits ;—one who is contented to pass through a mere formal tutorage, carrying with him to his home, nothing more than a perishable evidence, as a reward for the time spent among us ? God forbid. But, if unfortunately this should be the case, let such a one pause, as it were, on the threshold of this determination, and remember that it would have been far more creditable for him to have remained in the private walks of life, than to have thus curtailed his usefulness, to say nothing of the injury such a course must inevitably inflict on community.

Allow me then, in conclusion, to exhort you to diligence in the prosecution of your studies. You are to be the architects of your own reputation ; and, while, in your imagination, you may be revelling in a bright and glorious future, forget not that the intervening space over which you must pass, if your expectations shall be realized, will be rugged,—thickly strown with the perplexities, inseparable from the profession. Remember, the time is short,—the work great. Let not its arduousness discourage you. While it calls for sacrifice, its rewards are far from being dealt out with a sparing hand. Would you be saved, as much as possible, from the mortification which is ever the result of an unsuccessful effort to relieve the sufferings of a fellow-creature, who, in the anguish of his soul,



## MISCELLANEOUS RECIPES.

**Blue Flag Syrup.**—Take the green root of iris versicolor, (blue flag,) wash carefully, and bruise fine in a mortar. Then put a handful of this bruised root into 2 quarts of water, and boil to 3 pints. Strain and add 1 1-2 pint of best brandy, and 1 1-2 pint of molasses. Dose 1 table-spoonful every morning. This is an excellent remedy for chronic liver complaints.

**Restorative Bitters.**—Take of Peruvian bark 1 ounce; of the powder of the smilax sarsaparilla 2 ounces; of the salts of wormwood 30 grains. Put into 1 1-2 pint of best Port wine. Dose, half a wine-glassful, 2 or 3 times daily. This is a good tonic to be used in recovery from intermittent fever, and in other conditions of debility.

### Laboratory of Thomsonian Botanic Medicine,

No. 20, South Calvert St.....BALTIMORE.

THE first mill erected in the United States for the special purpose of preparing Thomsonian Botanic Medicines.

The subscriber has the largest and most complete assortment of Botanic Medicines in the United States, comprising all the various Compounds and other articles recommended by Dr. S. Thomson. Besides an extensive variety of other approved Botanic Medicines. Having erected his Steam Mills expressly for the above Medicines, he is enabled to sell on the most favorable terms, and warrants his Medicines to be genuine and pure, prepared in the best manner, and clear of any deleterious or poisonous qualities, as he does not admit any thing of that nature about his establishment.

An experience of more than twenty years, in the practice, preparation, and compounding of Botanic Medicines, from the very best and purest materials in the market, has afforded him just grounds to flatter himself, that his Medicines, after a fair trial, will compete with any which may be offered to the friends of the Botanic cause, within the whole range of our country.

☞ It is of great importance, that Practitioners, and others, using Botanic Medicines, should be apprised, that all the articles manufactured at his establishment are *pulverized*,—*not ground*,—between an upper and nether mill-stone; as the latter process heats, and consequently injures, if it does not destroy, the medical virtues of all articles submitted to such an operation.

On hand all the various Medical Works on the Botanic System, together with a general assortment of Glassware, Syringes, and all the articles connected with the business. Those wishing pure Medicines can be supplied on the most reasonable terms by

EPH'M. LARRABEE.

May 1847.

DRS. J. & BENJ. F. ABBOTT'S

### Botanic and Thomsonian Dispensary,

No. 140, Hanover Street, Boston,

(Successors to Dr. Elias Smith.)

We have on hand an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Extracts, Books, &c., which we offer for sale, wholesale and retail, at as low prices as they can be bought for in the city.

N. B. Patients attended to, as usual, in the city and vicinity.

Boston, Jan. 16, 1847.



## Union Depot of Botanic Medicines,

*No. 175, Bowery, N. Y.*

DR. JAMES OSGOOD, for many years connected with the New England Thomsonian Depot, at Boston, Ms., would respectfully inform Practitioners and Dealers in Botanic Medicines, that he has recently opened the above establishment, where he offers for sale, wholesale and retail, at the lowest prices, a complete assortment of Botanic Medicines, fresh and pure, selected with great care; Shaker Herbs; Extracts; Oils; Syringes; Apothecary's Glass Ware; Medical Books, &c., &c.

Dealers will find it for their interest to examine his stock before purchasing. Those residing at a distance can forward their orders by mail, or otherwise, with the certainty of having them filled as faithfully, and at as low prices as though they were present.

New York, May, 1847.

## J. Jackson, M. D., Botanic Physician,

*No. 102, Court Street... BOSTON.*

House, No. 42, Poplar Street. Calls in the city and country attended to.

☞ Botanic Medicines, wholesale and retail.

## A. GRAY, Griffin, Ga.,

Keeps constantly on hand a full and fresh supply of E. Larrabee's Botanic Medicines, which he offers to Practitioners of the South on the most reasonable terms.

*April 8, 1847.*

## Thomsonian Infirmary and Medicine Store.

DR. WILLIAM CLARK may be consulted at his Infirmary, *Nos. 80 and 82, Carver Street, BOSTON.*

## Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute,

PETERSBURG, VA.

The first annual Course of Lectures of the Medical Department of this Institution, chartered on the 8th of March last, (1847,) will commence on the first Monday in November next, and close on the last of February following. This Institution offers superior advantages and inducements to all students of medicine who may desire to qualify themselves *thoroughly*, as Botanic Physicians.

### FACULTY :

———, Professor of Physiology and Pathology.

A. M. BLACK, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.

C. J. KENWORTHY, M. D., Professor of Surgery.

W. BEACH, M. D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine.

E. P. BANNING, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics, &c.

HENRY M. PRICE, M. D., Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

J. THOMAS, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Forensic Medicine.

Fees for the Course, \$75. Graduation fee, \$15. Board, \$3 per week.

☞ An announcement of the Course will be sent to all who may desire it, by communicating, *post paid*, with

C. J. KENWORTHY, M. D.,

DEAN OF THE FACULTY, *pro tem.*

W. BEACH, *President.*

T. S. PLEASANTS, *Secretary.*  
*Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1847.*



### Proposals

*Of Dr. W. Beach, for publishing his American or Reformed Practice of Medicine, in two volumes complete.*

*Volume I.* The basis of this volume will be the first two volumes of my large work, called the AMERICAN PRACTICE, originally published in three volumes. All extraneous matter, not immediately practical, will be expunged; the whole will be revised; and all modern improvements, new remedies, and the result of my late clinical practice and experience, up to the period of publication, will be embodied. This volume will constitute a complete ECLECTIC OR REFORMED PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

*Volume II.* This volume will contain a complete system of Medical Botany, Therapeutics, and Pharmacy, illustrated by the most splendid colored engravings ever issued in this country.

Each volume will be complete in itself; and the two may be had separate, or together. My Medical Dictionary, and also my work on Anatomy and Physiology, illustrated by numerous and splendid engravings, are in course of preparation, and will appear shortly.

W. BEACH, M. D.

P. S. Any paper publishing the above twelve months shall receive a copy of the above work.

### Dr. I. Jacobs' Pills.

**LOBELIA EXTRACT PILLS.**—These Pills are prepared from the juice of the green herb, and evaporated to the consistency of a pill mass, at a temperature of about 98 degrees Fahr. This is an admirable mode of administering lobelia, and considered preferable, by those who have tried it, to all others. The Pills are used, in many cases, where vomiting is not considered necessary, and their operation is highly salutary. *Price \$1.00 per box, accompanied with full directions.*

**BONESET EXTRACT PILLS,** designed for biliary derangement, useful in dyspepsia, morbid state of the liver, jaundice, &c. Good also in scrofula, and consumption. *Price 33 cents per box with full directions.*

**CLOVE EXTRACT PILLS,** for purifying the blood and strengthening the system; a valuable remedy, also, in debility, nervous affections, female complaints generally. *Price 33 cents per box, with full directions.*

The proprietor offers these medicines to the Profession, with full confidence, that they will meet the highest expectations.

For sale, wholesale and retail, by J. T. GILMAM PIKE, 79 and 81 Blackstone Street, Boston, Mass.

### Wilson's Thomsonian and Botanic Laboratory, No. 18, Central Street.....BOSTON, MASS.

¶ The subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that they have recently opened the above establishment, where may be found an extensive assortment of Botanic and Thomsonian Medicines, Shaker Herbs, Extracts, Oils, &c. Syringes of all kinds, and all the different Medical Works upon the reformed system of practice published in the United States; also, Brandy, Wines, and other liquors of the choicest brands, for medicinal purposes only.

Having made arrangements to obtain all articles, that are indigenous to this country, directly from those parts where they are grown, and found in the greatest abundance and perfection, they are prepared to supply Wholesale Dealers, Practitioners, and others, with medicines of *superior quality*, at prices *as low* as they are sold at any similar establishment in the country. The utmost care will be used in the preparation of Compounds. Medicines neatly put up in small packages, and labelled with full directions for family use, if required, and safely packed for any climate.

Orders, by mail or otherwise, from the most distant sections of the country, promptly and faithfully attended to.

B. OSGOOD WILSON,  
G. CARLOS WILSON.



### New England Thomsonian Depot and General Herbarium.

79 and 81 Blackstone Street, Boston, Mass.

¶ DR. J. T. GILMAN PIKE would respectfully inform his friends and the public, that he is now making an addition of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, to his former extensive stock of Thomsonian and Botanic Medicines, which will enable him to supply wholesale dealers, practitioners, and private families on better terms than any dealer in the country.

His assortment embraces all the varieties of medicines usually furnished by similar establishments, together with an extensive stock of Apothecaries' Glass Ware, Syringes, Dental and Surgical Instruments, of the most approved kinds, Trusses, Abdominal Supporters, Oils, Extracts, &c., &c., and a constant supply of Brandy, Gin, Wines, and other liquors, of the best brand, for medicinal purposes.

His whole stock has recently been submitted to a careful examination, and every article, which, from age or other causes, had deteriorated, has been removed, and he warrants his whole stock *fresh and new*.

The rapid increase of the Botanic System of Medical Practice, has produced a corresponding demand for medicine, and country traders unacquainted with prescribing have felt the necessity of keeping a small assortment of articles suitably labelled for family use.

To meet this exigency, Dr. Pike has committed the department of Pharmacy to Dr. JAMES OSGOOD, one of the most experienced physicians in the country, whose services he has secured for five years; and he now offers for sale a large variety of new articles, of great value, which have been thoroughly tested in private practice for many years, accompanied with adequate directions for family use, and fully adapted to meet the wants of the Botanic community, in all their diseases, whether chronic or acute.

The rapid sale of these medicines, and the accumulated testimony of their efficiency, are a sure indication that the public appreciate the value of medicines, compounded by physicians of age and experience, when compared with articles thrust upon them by mere tyros in medicine, who are perfectly unacquainted with the physiological state of the system, and, if it is diseased, are incompetent of course, to prepare remedies adapted to restore it to its normal state.

### Travelling Agents Wanted!

¶ To sell two Medical works of great value:—COMFORT'S THOMSONIAN PRACTICE OF MEDICINE—COMFORT'S THOMSONIAN PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY. These works were written with special reference to *Family use*, and must be appreciated, by all who examine them, as the best means to preserve or restore health.

To men of integrity and business talent, with a small capital of \$50 or upwards, who are disposed to enter the business, (of the profitableness of which there is no doubt,) a Circular, giving a full description of the character of the Works, the principles, prospects, and profits of the agency, will be furnished, on application personally, or by letter, *postage paid*, to

ALEXANDER HARRISON, *Superintending Agent*,  
No. 8 1-2 South 7th Street, PHILADELPHIA.

### For Sale.

¶ That well known and desirable stand, the Providence Thomsonian Depot, and Botanic Infirmary. This excellent establishment has been in successful operation for more than six years. It is situated upon the "Popular" street. It does an excellent retail business, and something at wholesale. The proprietor is about to change his business, and would like to sell as soon as possible. A good run of business is guaranteed.

Providence, July 5th, 1846.

D. P. BUKER, *Proprietor*.

### **Dr. J. Hooker,**

*No. 1, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets,  
WORCESTER, MASS.*

We are happy in announcing, that, to meet the increasing demand for our professional services, we have secured the assistance of Dr. J. Hooker, late of East Brookfield,—a gentleman whose experience and success in Practice where he has lately resided, have gained for him the confidence of a large circle of patrons. Dr. H., in our absence, will attend to the calls of patients at our Office. He will also, when requested, wait on patients in the village and vicinity.

[ED. JOURNAL.]

### **Botanic Infirmary, and Bathing Rooms.**

**C. NEWTON, M. D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,**

*At No. 2, Corner of Front and Carlton Streets, Worcester, Mass.*

For the better accomodation of his patients, has opened that large establishment now known as above designated. Those availing themselves of the facilities which he offers at his Infirmary, will receive the most unremitting attention, and skillful treatment WITHOUT POISONS. Hydropathy, also, properly understood and scientifically employed, he regards as little more than a constituent part of what has usually been termed the Botanic practice, and as the most effective and appropriate treatment, in many cases. He has, accordingly, provided for the sick, and for those who would NOT BE SICK, every suitable variety of baths—cold and warm—water and vapor—simple and medicated. "Wash and be clean" is an old fashioned prescription, but one of reason and common sense. If the act is too simple, in the experience, to satisfy those who have "sought out many inventions," it is more gratifying in the results, than salivated mouths, and CALOMELIZED broken-down constitutions.

### **BOTANIC LABORATORY, AND ECLECTIC MEDICINES.**

**C. NEWTON,**

At his new Medicine Store, No. 1, corner of Front and Carlton streets, Worcester, Mass., keeps constantly on hand an extensive assortment of Medicines, nor POISONS. He also keeps a variety of such table delicacies as are used particularly in sickness, together with various fancy and toilet articles. Terms—low prices, and cash payments. Please call.

### **The New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal**

Is published on the 1st and 16th of every month, by C. Newton, M. D., at No. 1, corner of Front and Carlton Streets, Worcester, Mass. Each number contains sixteen pages octavo, and the numbers of one year constitute a volume. Terms—\$1 per year, invariably in advance. This paper, before its change of name, had secured a much greater circulation than that of any Medical Journal in New England, Botanic or Allopathic, and had received numerous testimonials of high approbation. Its number of subscribers will now be still more increased. It is designed for DOMESTIC as well as PROFESSIONAL use, and should be in every family. All remittances and communications pertaining to it, should be directed, post paid, to the Editor. Any person forwarding, post paid, the names of four subscribers, and remitting \$4, shall receive a fifth copy gratis.

**WORCESTER :**

**PRINTED BY SAMUEL CHISM,**

220 MAIN STREET, UP STAIRS.



NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., JUNE 16, 1847. No. 12.

---

Home Department.

---

THE VITAL PRINCIPLE.

The appropriate work of the physician being to remove disease, to restore health, and so to prolong the life of his patients, the inquiry cannot be otherwise than interesting, to all who have entered or are entering on the medical profession, *What is life?* What is that principle—that power of animation—that essence, which we call life?

Is it *heat*? So says DR. THOMSON. "Heat is life, and cold is death." But, if heat is life, life must be heat; and, if life is heat, the more heat there is in any body and any where, the more life. If life is heat and heat life, these terms are synonymous, and can, and may, and ought to be used interchangeably. But we know, that heat may exist and does exist, where there is no life. It is latent in all bodies, organic and inorganic, of the globe which we inhabit. It exists in the flinty rock and in the limpid stream. It exists alike in the green tree and the dry. But in the rock, the river, and the tree, where is the life? The dry tree we say is dead. It has no life. We say the same of the river and the rock. No: *Heat is not life*. If it were, while heat is being evolved in the freezing of liquids and in the combustion of solids, there would be a manifestation of it. But water freezes and fuel burns. We see them, and we feel heat; but we see and feel nothing in these operations which we call life. Heat latent is caloric; but caloric is not life. Caloric, evolved and free, produces in us the sensation which we call heat: but this sensation is not life; for, without life, we could neither see nor feel,—we could have neither sensations nor perceptions of heat, or cold, or any thing else. We inquire again;

The study of plants, Botany in its proper signification, may be regarded as coeval with the creation of man ; because plants are, in a great measure, indispensable to the support of animal life. The first stage, in the progress of this study, would be that in which the attention of the human mind was directed to the discrimination of spontaneous vegetables as fit for food. A second stage, in the progress of the study of plants, would be that in which men began to direct their attention to useful vegetables as capable of furnishing, by means of cultivation, an increased supply proportioned to the wants of population. Then it was, that agriculture, in the proper sense of the word, would commence in society. A third stage, in the study of plants, would be that in which they began to be regarded as furnishing, not only necessities, but also comforts ; and, from this period, whenever it happened, may be dated the origin of horticulture. A fourth stage in this study was that in which plants began to be considered as furnishing not merely comforts but luxuries. Odors and beautiful flowers would be prized ; and hence the origin of floriculture. The last stage in the completion of the study of plants, and the crowning one of the whole, is the developement of the boundless resources of the vegetable kingdom for our sustenance, protection, and enjoyment ; especially for the healing of our diseases, and the alleviation of our wants and woes.

This extensive and very important department of natural history, therefore, justly claims a large share of the attention of every individual, not only on account of the aid it affords to horticulture, to the employments of rural life, and to the healing art, but also for the intellectual and moral culture, which, in an eminent degree, it is capable of imparting. No science whatever more effectually combines pleasure with improvement, than Botany. It conducts the student into the fields and forests, amidst the verdure of spring and the bloom of summer,—to the charming retreats of Nature in her wild luxuriance, or where she patiently smiles under the improving hand of cultivation. It furnishes vigorous exercise of both body and mind, which is no less salutary than agreeable ; and its subjects of investigation are all such as are adapted to please the eye, refine the taste, and improve the heart.

We shall now take a rapid view of the progress of the study of plants, among the ancients and moderns, passing over, however, the fabulous history of the Greeks, and commencing with Solomon, king of Israel, who appears to have written a treatise on vegetables, somewhere about the year B. C. 1004. This work is now lost, and the next name in order is Thales, who flourished B. C. 604. To him succeeded the celebrated Pythagoras, about B. C. 550, who is believed to have prohibited his disciples the use of beans, on account of a supposed identity of origin between beans and human flesh. He is also said to have written a treatise on onions. Anaxagoras, another Greek philosopher of this period, maintained, that the seeds of all vegetables are lodged in the atmosphere, from whence they descend along with the rain and dews into the earth, where they mingle with the soil, and spring up into plants. Empedocles is said to have attributed sexes, and desires, and passions to plants, and Democritus wrote a treatise on their smells. Hippocrates, about the year B. C. 409, introduced a new and enlightened system of medical study, a subject intimately connected with plants ; and his contemporary Cratejas

wrote a book on Botany, of which some fragments lately existed in the imperial library of Vienna. Aristotle, about B. C. 350, wrote a scientific work on plants, which, though also lost, is quoted by contemporaries, and has thus obtained, for its author, the title of Father of Natural History, as well as Prince of Metaphysicians. His disciple Theophrastus, about B. C. 300, wrote on plants. He described about five hundred species, and endeavored to account for the phenomena of vegetation. Soon after Theophrastus flourished, the Greek empire began to decline, and, with it, the study of plants. Botany, with the other arts and sciences, consequently migrated to Italy, in which it made some progress, as we may learn by the writings of Pliny, Virgil, and other georgical authors of the Augustan age. Those Roman writers, however, that can be considered strictly botanical are only Dioscorides and Pliny. The work of the former is a body of *Materia Medica*; that of the latter, Rousseau considers, only as a body of receipts.

Little is known of the study of Botany during the dark ages.

On the revival of the arts, in the beginning of the fifteenth century, one of the first fruits it produced was the introduction of figures from wooden cuts by Brunsfelsius of Mayence, in Germany. His *Historia Plantarum*, published in the beginning of the sixteenth century, excited the emulation of other Botanists, and soon after followed his countrymen Bock, Cordus, Fuchius, Dodonæus, and Clusius. Matthioli was the first Italian; Dalechamp and Banhin the first Frenchmen, and Turner and Gerard the first Englishmen, who caught the flame.

But, though prints had been introduced, method was wanting, without which all study of natural history must be of the most imperfect and limited kind. Gesner, a native of Zurich, in Switzerland, made the first attempt at arranging plants into classes, orders, and genera, about the middle of the sixteenth century. Casalpinus, a native of Tuscany, presented a similar arrangement at the same time, without knowing any thing of that of Gesner; a common occurrence in the history of inventions, and a proof, that the general state of botanical science rendered such an invention necessary. After this period, the study of Botany proceeded with rapid strides, and herbariums and copper plates of plants, invented by Columna of Naples, began to be estimated, and very much sought after.

Botanic gardens, also, were established about the middle of the sixteenth century, first in Italy, in 1533, and afterwards in France, Germany, and England, before the completion of the sixteenth century. The first public botanic garden, established in Europe, was that of Pisa, begun, according to Deleuze, in 1543, by Cosmo de Medici, and of which Ghini and Casalpinus, the most celebrated Botanists of the age, were successively the directors. In France, the first botanic garden was formed, in 1597, at Montpellier, in Henry the Fifth's reign, through the representation and influence of Bolen. In the following year, it contained thirteen hundred distinct species, the greater part, too, gathered in the immediate neighborhood. The Elector of Saxony, having undertaken the reform of public instruction throughout his dominions, established, at Leipzig, in 1580, the first public botanic garden in Germany. The earliest notice we have of a botanic garden in England, is that of the Duke of Somerset at Sion

house in the beginning of the sixteenth century. This garden was placed under the superintendence of Dr. Turner, whom Dr. Pulteney considers as the Father of English botany. These gardens, as may be well supposed, contributed, in an astonishing degree, to the progress of the study of plants, and they also secured the influence and the patronage of the wealthy.

Botany, however, notwithstanding these advantages, declined, or was stationary during the greater part of the sixteenth century; but revived, owing, as it is thought, to a new direction given to the spirit of philosophical inquiry, by the illustrious Bacon, Lord Verulam. This wonderful philosopher explored and developed the true foundations of human knowledge, with a sagacity and penetration truly astonishing and unparalleled in the history of mankind. He dared to disengage himself from the fetters of academical authority, condemned the visionary speculations of the schools, and recommended the substitution of analytical and inductive investigation, proclaiming truth to be but the image of nature.

The structure of plants and the phenomena of vegetable life began to attract attention in the seventeenth century, two thousand years after it had been first attempted by Theophrastus. Malpighi an Italian, and Grew an Englishman carried on this study at the same time, unknown to each other. The result of their investigations was communicated to the scientific world, towards the end of the seventeenth century, removing, in great part, the veil which had hitherto enveloped the phenomena of vegetation. The plan which these philosophers pursued was that of experiment, recommended by Bacon. The result may be mentioned as the first fruits of his philosophy.

About the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth century, different methods or systems for arranging and naming plants were produced by Hermann and Boerhave of Leyden; Rivinus and others in Germany; Tournefort and Magnell in France; and Morrison and Ray in England. Of these systems or nomenclatures, that of Tournefort was the most generally followed, of which may be given, as an instance, the first six editions of Miller's Gardener's and Botanist's Dictionary. The system of Tournefort depended chiefly on the corolla; but, when the knowledge of plants became more extensive, this system was found impracticable in its application. All the other methods were also in different degrees defective; and it was not, till the appearance of the immortal Linnæus, that this perplexity was removed.

Linnæus founded what is called the sexual system, deducing his rules of method from incontrovertible principles, establishing, in his *Philosophica Botanica*, laws of genera and specific distinction, and rules of legitimate definition. This simplicity of system, perspicuity of arrangement, and precision of language gained, for its author, a degree of celebrity, which has rarely fallen to the lot of human contrivances, elevated Botany to the high rank it now holds in the scale of human science, allured to the study of plants men of the most distinguished abilities, and excited that ardor for botanical investigation which certainly characterizes the present age. This new system, as founded on the sexes of plants, naturally led Linnæus to the study of the structure and phenomena of vegetables; and this effected, at last, a close and intimate union

between systematic and physiological Botany. The propriety and advantage of this union are evident, since a thorough knowledge of plants involves both studies.

The doctrines of Linnæus soon procured followers in every country, but the most distinguished of his immediate disciples were Kalm, Hasselquist, Laffing, and Kœnig, all of whom travelled in pursuit of new plants, under the auspices of their great master. Of his more remote disciples may be named, as most distinguished, Gmelin, Oeder, Hedwig, Gærtner, and Sir James Edward Smith, the founder and first president of the Linnæan society of London, and proprietor of the whole of the Linnæan herbarium; and from whose meritorious labors Botany has derived and is still deriving very important advantages.

The study of physiological Botany, however, was less attended to than that of methodical arrangement, by Linnæus and his immediate disciples; and, indeed, it would have been too much to have expected an equal progress in both, by him who had made so astonishing an improvement in the one department. To the names of Grew and Malpighi, in physiological Botany, may be added, in addition to that of Linnæus, Hales, Bonnet, Du Hamel, Hedwig, Spallanzani, and especially Priestly. This Philosopher first brought the aid of pneumatic chemistry to this study, which, under the direction of such men as Ingenhouz, Senebier, and Saussure, has done more to illustrate the phenomena of vegetation than all the other means of investigation put together. If to these be added the ingenious hints and speculations of Darwin, in his *Botanic Garden*, and in *Phytologia*; the masterly experiments of Knight, given in the philosophical transactions; the vegetable physiology of Mirbel and Keiser; with the systematic view of the whole subject by Keith, in his introduction to vegetable physiology; it may be asserted, with the latter writer, "that our knowledge of the physiology of vegetables may now be regarded as resting upon the foundation of a body of the most incontrovertible facts, and assuming a degree of importance inferior only to that of the physiology of animals." Such may be considered the present state of physiological Botany.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## DR. COLBY AGAIN.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., June 7, 1847.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—You will recollect, that I promised, when I transferred my list of subscribers to you, that I would be a regular contributor to your paper; but I have thus far failed to fulfil that promise. My principal reason has been, that I was fearful, you were taking so broad ground, in order to encircle as many friends as possible, as to render the accomplishment of the object you aimed at of little practical importance. I go for an entire medical reformation, or revolution rather; but am willing to be eclectic enough to select any agent, innocent in itself, whether recommended by Dr. Thomson, Dr. Beach, or Dr. Eberle, or

first used by an Indian, an Arab, or a South Sea Islander, when convinced, that it is the best adapted to the accomplishment of the object desired. But, because certain symptoms have disappeared after the use of calomel, opium, blistering, bleeding, cupping, drastic cathartics, and the ten thousand specifics in common use, I do not wish to resort to them, as a matter of experiment, when I have remedies which I know, by long experience, to be more safe and equally certain, at least, in their results.

Plain, simple Thomsonism, by which I mean the unity of disease, and the application of such agents only as act in harmony with the laws of nature, aiding her in her sanative efforts to rid herself of obstructions to the free and complete operation of those laws, needs only to be investigated and tested, by men of sound mind, independent character, and strict moral honesty, to be adopted and appreciated; but the moment its friends depart from its fundamental principles, for the sake of union with those who never have examined or tested the Thomsonian principles, they step from the firm rock, upon the ever changing quicksands of theory. The only obstacle I see, to the universal spread of Thomsonism, is a lack of a thorough knowledge of its principles and their proper application, and of the collateral branches, Physiology, Anatomy, Chemistry, Surgery, Obstetrics, etc., by our practitioners, and a want of union and independence in carrying out those principles. I am free to confess, I have been fearful, that such a course would be pursued, at the Worcester Medical School, as to retard rather than advance true medical science. I have watched its progress, with an anxious eye, to see which way it might throw its influence, whether for a mixed, or an independent practice. I am happy to see you, sir, taking the bold stand you have taken, and I now anticipate much from the permanent establishment of the Worcester Medical School, and my feeble efforts shall be used in its favor, and for the more general circulation of its organ, the Botanic Medical Journal.

I was pleased to notice the call for a Botanic Convention in July. It is of the greatest importance, that such a Convention should be held, in order that an interest may be aroused in favor of our cause. I am fearful some quack has given our cause a dose of "opium;" for it has exhibited all its effects, for two years past. I think a consultation of "*steamers*" would lead to the adoption of such measures as would arouse vitality and increase action. Our Connecticut Thomsonians know how to do this, and they will be there; and the Maine "*steamers*" are not a whit behind those of any other State. They are on hand for any measure that will advance the cause. New Hampshire and Vermont will be represented by the true stamp. Massachusetts Thomsonians are not dead, but sleeping. Just give a call loud enough to awake them, and they will be there. The little State of Rhode Island, too, has a few, who will not bow the knee to Baal, some of whom you may expect to see at Worcester, on the 14th of July next. The Convention, to be held at that time, may, if well attended and the time judiciously spent, be the means of giving an impetus to our cause, encouraging the Practitioners to make a strong and united effort to overcome the obstacles to the general spread of our principles and practice.

Yours respectfully,

BENJAMIN COLBY.



## TYPHUS CONGESTIVE FEVER.

MR. EDITOR,—On the 11th day of April last, I was called to visit Mrs. H. of S—, who had, for two or three weeks, been very unwell, laboring, during the time, under an extraordinary degree of torpidity of the whole system, being unable, to use her own expression, to warm herself by the hottest fire. At the time she had been taking diaphoretic teas, and a lobelia emetic; but, as they failed to operate as she expected, she desired my assistance. I gave her a very large portion of lobelia in addition, together with other powerful stimulants, which produced heavy emesis, but without having much effect on the general system. I then ordered her to continue the diaphoretic teas, and, once in four hours, to take 1-2 teaspoonful of capsicum, in molasses; and, as soon as vomiting ceased, 1-2 a teaspoonful of equal parts of mandrake and Culver's physic.

All the indications denoted a heavy attack of typhus congestive fever. The next day I found her worse. The vital powers were overwhelmed and depressed; extreme lassitude; the pulse struggling, feeble, and slow; respiration slow and much oppressed; the tongue slightly coated; brown; edges dark red; the skin relaxed, damp, and icy cold at extremities; the countenance alternately flushed and pale; eyes glary and vacant; intolerance of light; and, during the stage of oppression, delirium. The cold stages, or stages of oppression lasted from two to four hours, and irregularly occurred, two or three times, during each twenty-four hours, for six days subsequent. In short, the appearances, in the case, indicated a speedy and fatal issue, and such was expected by all her attendants.

In addition to what I had before advised, I directed thorough and long continued bathing of the *body* and *limbs*, with a compound of hot drops tincture of capsicum, oil of hemlock, etc., and red pepper and vinegar, alternately, once in four hours; mustard sinapisms on ankles and wrists; hot and quenched bricks or stones at feet, often renewed; and, internally, a pill containing equal parts of quinine, piporine, and capsicum, every three hours; also, between the pills, once in three hours, 1-2 teaspoonful of capsicum in substance, with a free use of slippery elm mucilage, sage and pennyroyal teas, every ten or twelve hours. I administered 1-2 teaspoonful of brown lobelia, in substance; and, during its operation, the tincture of the same, from 1-2 to 1 1-2 ounces; and a liberal supply of hot drops, and compound tincture nerverine.

To keep the bowels liberated, mandrake and Culver's physic were given, in substance, in half teaspoonful doses, every twelve hours. Injections were also occasionally given, but could not be persevered in, without inducing severe pain, in consequence of another affection, of long standing, with which she was afflicted, viz., *ascites ovarii*.

During the *stage of oppression*, on the fourth, fifth, and sixth days, life was nearly extinct, and hope fled; but, on the seventh day, she was evidently better, and continued gradually to convalesce, under the same general treatment,—the remediate measures being graduated according to the amount of disease. Emetics, as above, were given, once in twenty-four, thirty-six, and forty-eight hours, for the next two weeks, and the

bowels liberated, as before; and, with the combination of appropriate *bitter tonics* and diuretics, her health has been fully restored.

Yours etc., on the "no poison principle,"

G. N. LANGDON.

Bristol, Conn., June 4th, 1847.

N. B. One fact, in the above case, deserves notice. Delirium never supervened, while under the influence of the powerful lobelia emetics.

*Again*,—no matter how raging the delirium, when the emetic was given; as soon as the emetic *operated*, delirium subsided.

*Query.* Is lobelia a "deadly narcotic?"

Where is W. Beach, *M. D.*?

Another fact.—Instead of prostration and debility's being induced, by the operation of the cathartics, perseveringly given in this case, the opposite effect was *always clearly manifest*, and was often the subject of remark by the patient.

*Query.* Are cathartics *never* necessary?

Where is the man that deserves notice, that dares assert and attempt to maintain *that* position? If he can be *found*, let him be *heard*. More Anon.

G. N. L.

## FITS AND RICKETS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED,

BY DR. RICHARD HERBERT OF ROWLEY, MASS.

MR EDITOR,—The individual whose name heads this communication, has, for many years, made himself eminent in the treatment of the diseases above mentioned; and I take this occasion to say, to those who have not heard concerning Dr. Herbert's skill, and who have, or *may* have children afflicted with these distressing complaints, that they would do well to avail themselves of his services. Some years ago, before I became initiated into the mysteries of the healing art, my little boy, then but a few months old, was suddenly seized with fits, which continued upon him for several weeks. Regular medical advice was obtained,—consultation was had,—and every thing done that could be, to subdue the disease. The physicians employed could not ascertain the real cause of the fits. They thought teething was the cause, and cut its gums; but their efforts proved unavailing, and I was advised, by some friends, to send for Dr. Herbert. It was known, then, that the Dr. had cured very many cases of fits, and I was induced to call him in. He came, made a thorough examination of the case, ascertained what, in his opinion, appeared to be the true cause, prescribed for the patient, and, in a short time, under his system of medication, my child got well, and is now in perfect health.

Several cases of a far more obstinate and alarming character, in this village, have been treated by him with equally gratifying results. Cases of rickets, also, coming under my immediate notice, have been treated with equal success. And, not only here, but in many other places, Dr.

Herbert has performed wonders in curing the diseases spoken of. I have not heard of a single instance of failure, when the case came within the influence of remedial means. Dr. Herbert has had great experience, and, probably, no other practitioner has had so large a number of cases to prescribe for in the same time. Children are carried to him from every part of the country, and he has visited them when desired, and has uniformly given satisfaction.

He is a respectable physician of the Old School; and, though some may be averse to employing one of that class, on account of prejudice against their remedies, I would say, I believe Dr. Herbert's medicines to be perfectly safe and innocent, as he is more disposed to discard the use of those injurious agents in the treatment of disease, than the Faculty in general. Having been acquainted with him for a number of years, and knowing him to be a gentleman of high religious and moral character, I have the greatest confidence in his declarations, and integrity.

Hundreds of references can be given, if desired.

In writing the above, I am not, in the least, actuated by motives of self-interest. The good of suffering humanity prompts me to make known the above fact.

Danvers.

A. R. P.

## PLEURITIS OR PLEURISY.

This disease, which is very common, and which, when improperly treated, either terminates in death or in chronic disease of the pleural cavity, is, properly speaking, an inflammation of the serous membrane lining the substance of the lungs and the cavity of the thorax. When it co-exists with pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs, and the one predominates considerably over the other, then different terms are applied by authors, to designate the disease, as it shows itself. If inflammation of the lungs have the ascendancy, then it is called *pleuro-pneumonia*. If, on the other hand, inflammation of the pleura be most distinguishable, then it is called *pneumo-pleuritis*.

But these terms are merely arbitrary, and nominally distinctive, and, as all wise and judicious physicians know, have nothing to do with curing disease—both inflammation of the lungs and inflammation of the pleura being treated pretty much alike. Technical terms, therefore, in one sense, amount to nothing, so far as the curing of disease is concerned. Nor, indeed, in any respect, are they of any consequence.

To define the cause and the nature of disease, and to ascertain the true principle on which it should be treated, are the all important things. Too much importance is attached to terms and high sounding names. People are greatly deceived, if they imagine, that a physician is learned or skilful, because he can repeat a long list of technical phrases. I trust the time is not distant, when our medical schools will totally abolish all useless names, and adopt a plain, simple, and intelligible phraseology.

The disease under consideration, then, which is termed, in simple language, pleurisy, is occasioned, in a majority of instances, by exposure to

cold. Sometimes it occurs in consequence of some mechanical injury. Sometimes, it is caused by one thing, sometimes by another.

The symptoms are, a severe, lancinating pain in the side, or what some call "a *stich*," which is one of the most striking signs of the disease, and which is usually aggravated, by every act of inspiration. Other symptoms are flushing of the countenance, increased heat over the whole body, a dry, hacking cough, attended at first with a slight expectoration of thin matter, mixed with particles of blood. As the disease progresses, the matter spit up becomes thicker, more purulent, more rust-colored, and plentiful. The respiration is considerably embarrassed, the tongue is furred, and there is a full, corded, and frequent pulse, vibrating, as some have it, like the tense string of a musical instrument, with rigors, pain in the chest, etc.

These are some of the prominent signs of inflammation of the pleura. When connected with inflammation of the lungs, still more alarming signs are presented; such as great oppression in the chest, violent pain, delirium, great difficulty of breathing, etc.

For such a disease, then, as pleurisy, clearly and unequivocally indicated by the symptoms already enumerated, what course of treatment would seem to be the most natural and judicious, and be likely to bring it to a successful termination in the shortest space of time and with the least physical injury to the patient? Certainly the course which the Faculty pursue, is not, by any means, the safest and least injurious. Experience fully demonstrates that it is not. But the inquiring individual asks, What is this treatment? I answer, not in my own language, but in the language of regular authority,—of those whose province it is to teach the medical student what to do at the bed side of the sick. An English instructor, Dr. Thomas Watson, tells his students and the whole world also, to "have recourse to the *lancet*." "Blood letting," he says, "*tells* more, and is better borne in inflammation of serous membranes, than in any other case." Says he, "fearlessly cover the painful side with leeches, or abstract blood by the cupping-glass and scarificator. Mercury is also *especially* indicated, given in equal doses, repeated at frequent intervals, and guarded by a small quantity of opium. Externally, apply the strong mercurial ointment. Apply, also, blisters and leeches to the chest. Administer, likewise, digitalis, squills, and blue pills. Where effusion has taken place, tap the thorax, and let the fluid escape." If the reader will consult other regular authors,—such as Thomas, Buchan, Gregory, Fordyce, and all modern authors of any repute, he will find that they all agree in one method of treatment,—bleeding, antimony, and mercury being the main remedies.

Of the effects of these last three, the world is apprised, and I need not adduce testimony to show how much evil has been occasioned by them. Suffice it to say, the Faculty are generally unsuccessful in this disease, losing ten patients where the reformed practitioners lose one.

And why is this? Because the treatment of the latter is scientific,—of course more salutary, and less injurious to the animal tissues. In the incipient stage, an emetic of lobelia alone, or combined with ipecac and blood root, is administered; after which, a smart vegetable purgative, if the case demands it,—purgatives to be given occasionally as circumstances require. Suitable sudorifics are to be administered, such as pleurisy root.

and eupatorium aromaticum, or white snake root, or a strong infusion of the same, or Beach's sudorific drops. Bathe the whole body often with weak warm lye. To ease the pain, apply cayenne and brandy to the side, or a fomentation of bitter herbs, or a sinapism of mustard. For drink, give catnip tea, slippery elm;—for nervines, scullcap and ladies' slipper. Sometimes, Beach's diaphoretic powders operate charmingly to give sleep to the patient, and to quiet nervous irritability. With such a mode of treatment, varied, perhaps, according to the mildness or violence of the disease, pleurisy must yield, if it is a curable case, without a particle of antimony or mercury, or the loss of a drop of blood. Let the reader decide, in his own mind, which system is the best.

Danvers, New Mills.

A. R. P.

### "NORTHAMPTON WATER CURE."

MR. EDITOR,—An advertisement in the Christian Citizen, of the 12th inst., headed as above, contains the following paragraph, said to be from the lips or pen of David Ruggles, who professes to treat diseases, according to what is here stated. He says:—

"I can feel in every healthy person *an incessant, regular, and energetic emission of electricity from every pore.* This I call *VITALITY OR POWER.* In the skin of some invalids, this symptom appears feeble, or irregular, and in others not at all; and I have thought it prudent to decline all applicants for the cure, *who lack this electric action,* as it is the principle means by which I judge how to treat the patient. Should this be feeble and irregular, (other symptoms being favorable,) I order the blanket; if irregular, the wet sheet, or half-bath, with much rubbing." \* \*

It has been well remarked, by Mr. Harrison, in his able work, entitled, "An Essay toward a Correct Theory of the Nervous System," that, nothing is more common than for persons, not familiar with human physiology, to attribute phenomena, which they cannot account for in any other way, to "magnetism" or "electricity." And, I believe, with equal truth it might be said, that more charlatanry and quackery have been palmed off upon invalids, under the name of "magnetic" or "electrical," than in connection with almost any, or all other subjects put together. Witness the celebrated "Tractors" of Perkins; the "*Magnetic Remedies*" of H. H. Sherwood; the "*Electrical Pills*" of Halstead; and the "*Galvanic Rings*" of recent date. Every body believes in the reality of Galvanism; and, hence, if you can only make the poor invalid believe, that you have transferred this power into the "pills" which he is to swallow, of course, he will buy them, whether they be one, or "eight dollars a box."

But, though so much is so generally believed about "magnetism," one fact in relation to it, is not generally known;—it is this, that you cannot magnetize *fluids or medicines*, so as to cause them to *retain* this power, a moment! Hence, all these medicines called "*electrical*," or

"*magnetic*," are an imposition, as every one familiar with this subject knows very well. And so, with some, the belief prevails, as to the "electricity" of the human body, and others may be found, probably, who will believe what this Mr. Ruggles affirms, about his being able to "*feel*" an incessant, regular, and energetic *emission*" of it, "from *every pore* of a healthy person!" That the functions of the living body are not "electrical, Mr. Harrison has proved in the work above named; and, indeed, this notion is not now received by any physiologist, of any distinction, as far as I know, the world over. And, that the assumptions of Mr. Ruggles, above quoted, are *unfounded*, any one may prove, in one moment, by applying any part of the living body to an electrometer. In some peculiar *positions*, or, in some muscular *actions*, as well as in a few cases of disease, "electricity" has been detected, as if escaping from the human body. The best experiments with an electrometer, of which I ever heard, were performed, a few years since, by Dr. Fahnestock of Lancaster, Pa., an account of which I have published in "The Magnet," and also, in my work on "Pathetism." His experiments prove, beyond all doubt, the fallacy of the above notions about the "elimination" of "electricity" from "every pore," of "every healthy person." Can any man, in his senses, believe that David Ruggles' hand is more *sensitive* to the presence of "electricity" than a good "electrometer?" Ask my friend, Daniel Davis, Jr. of Boston, one of the most popular magnetic instrument makers in this country, probably. See if you can make him believe this story David Ruggles tells about his "hand?"

As a friend to the "Water Cure," I am unwilling to have such puerile notions associated with that noble cause; and I feel it my duty to prevent, as far as possible, invalids from depending upon such assumptions as I know *must* deceive them, and, withal, such as *may* injure and prove their ruin.

Worcester, June 14th, 1847.

LA ROY SUNDERLAND.

---

## THE ENLARGEMENT.

With this number of our paper, we commence the enlarged form which we have before proposed. We would, however, remind our friends, that, by so doing, we lay them under increased obligations. By the enlargement, we hope to scatter abroad a greater amount of light; but we cannot afford to incur the additional expense, (the subscription price remaining the same,) unless there shall be a considerable increase to our list of subscribers. We, therefore, appeal to our readers' sense of duty in this matter, confident that they will not fail to make special exertions, in our behalf, at the present crisis. Let each one obtain, at least, one new subscriber, and forward his name to us, with the dollar, forthwith; and it will look like loving the cause, "not in words only, but in deed and in truth." When a reform in religion was successfully attempted, some eighteen hundred years ago, the success, so far as it depended on human means, was owing to the united and vigorous efforts of the friends. The.

account of their measures is termed "The Book of the *Acts* of the Apostles." Now-a-days, reformers are quite too apt to depend on a series of *resolutions*, instead of *acts*. We were highly gratified with the interest, manifested in our cause, by the members of the Connecticut Botanic Medical Society at their late meeting in Hartford. The promises which were then and there made to assist in extending the circulation of our paper, gave us, as we supposed, good ground to expect, that, by the present time, we should receive an increase of some one or two hundred names to our list, from that State. We must say, therefore, that we are disappointed, in having thus far received *not a single name* since that meeting. Still, we are not willing to believe, that this failure will be allowed long to continue; and, relying on expressions of friendship so extensively made, we have taken upon ourselves the burden and expense of increasing, by *one half*, the former size of our sheet. We have done this in accordance with the advice of several judicious friends; and now we ask, Shall we bear our burden alone, or will you help us? The paper, you admit, is *of such a kind* precisely as is needed. If the matter contained in it is not always as valuable as you would have it, just take hold of the work yourselves, and make it better. Send on your communications, and it will afford us great pleasure to give them a place in our pages. Freely make such suggestions as you think proper; and, by your co-operation, we can have, and we will have a paper of the first order. But one, unaided, cannot do every thing; and he could not, even if he had a mind of Herculean strength. As an individual, we are engaged in a great work, the responsibility of which we cannot and we would not throw entirely off ourselves; but we do wish and expect you to apply your shoulder with ours, and help, at least, a little, in sustaining the ponderous load.

### OUR LECTURE TERM—ITS CLOSE.

The second Term of the New England Botanic Medical College is now closed. The whole number of students in attendance has been twenty-seven. In general, they have acquitted themselves with great credit,—diligently attending on the instructions given, and carefully treasuring up what they have been taught. Several of them, having completed the course of study prescribed, and complied with the other requisitions for graduation, have been pronounced worthy the degree of Doctor in Medicine, and will now go forth into the world, successfully, as we doubt not, to practice the healing art. We can confidently recommend them to the public as able, in point of education, to cope with graduates of the Old School; and as, in point of ability to remove disease, immeasurably superior. We are gratified with the fact, that they have each found places to locate, which promise to afford them the opportunity of doing much good, as well as a comfortable living. We only regret, that we have not more men of the same stamp to send elsewhere; for the Macedonian cry is heard from various quarters, "Come over and help us." For the remainder of the year, we shall have a few private students; and shall anticipate, at the next regular Course of Lectures, a Class of some fifty or sixty. [Ed. Journal.]

*From the Southern Medical Reformer.*

## EDITORIAL.

We are very sorry to perceive, by the last number of the N. E. B. M. & S. Journal, that our mutual friends, Drs. Beach and Newton, are somewhat at variance upon certain points; and, as our own name, without our consent, has been forced before the public, we feel at liberty to make certain statements bearing upon said controversy. We are, and always have been in favor of the fundamental principles of Thomsonism, and, if ever, in any communication, we made use of the expressions attributed to us, it was done inadvertently;—we would have been understood to say these Institutions were injured by an amalgamation of Thomsonians and Mongrels. We regret that Dr. Beach pretends to entertain the obsolete falsities in relation to lobelia inflata. If he or any other man will demonstrate to our satisfaction, that it is *narcotic poison*, I for one will pledge myself never to use it; but, as I have had *some little experience* with this article, I must beg leave to differ, at least upon this subject, with the Doctor.

We regret these controversies between those who are bound by the strongest ties to live in harmony. We fear us much these internal dissensions will injure, if not ruin our cause. For one, we have enough to do to defend the practice from the aspersions of our enemies; and we really think both of our friends had much better be engaged in giving *lobelia* emetics to their patients, than in trying to controvert each other's principles.

[We receive, in all good nature, the advice of our estimable friend, the Editor of the Southern Medical Reformer, and we assure him, that we are no more "at variance" with Dr. Beach, than he shows himself to be, in the above remarks. We are not about to turn aside at all from the business—with which we are familiar—of "giving lobelia emetics," to engage in controversy. As to what we have said, the circumstances of the case were compulsory. The castigatory remarks of Dr. B., in a private letter to us, were gratuitous and uncalled for. They were just such as *modesty* would have declined to make. The letter sent us for publication was called forth by an incidental remark of ours in presenting our reasons for not accepting the Professorship offered us in the Eclectic Medical Institute of Virginia. We esteem Dr. Beach as a personal friend; but we do not believe, that, so long as he is *so authoritatively* tenacious of his peculiar views, his instructions and those of thorough-going Thomsonians can be favorably associated together in the same Institution.

As to any special obligations to "live in harmony" with Dr. Beach, on account of his medical position, we do not admit their existence. And, should "*dissensions*" exist between him and ourselves, we could not call them "*internal*." Contending, as we do unequivocally and unreservedly for the no-poison principle, we cannot regard Dr. B., in his present position, as of *the same school* with ourselves. In several respects, he may, indeed, be much nearer our views, than those who adhere strictly to the doctrines of Allopathy; but in some, at any rate, he seems to be receding to a remoter distance, than is occupied by enlightened Allopa-



thists. In proof of this fact, compare the doctrines which he teaches respecting *lobelia inflata* with the views of Prof. Tully of New Haven, quoted by the Editor of the Reformer.

But enough of this. We have only to add, we see *where the shoes pinches*. Dr. P. has reason to fear something of a more local and interested nature, than that "these internal dissensions will injure, if not ruin our cause." We are sincerely sorry for the "fix" into which the Eclectic Medical Institute is thrown. We wish our friends of that Institution success; but, to secure that object, we are satisfied, that they will be compelled to use the *turn out*, and slide some of their cars off upon the other track. [Ed. Journal.]

---

## THE CONTEMPLATED CONVENTION.

We are pleased to learn, that a deep interest is felt in this matter among our friends, in the N. E. States and New York. We anticipate, that each of these will be fully represented, and that, in addition, some delegates from other States also will be present. We assure such as may be disposed to attend, that their presence and co-operation will be truly welcome. We shall be happy to see, not only practitioners, but all who will be interested in the matters to be discussed. We hope and expect, that the meeting will result in the adoption of measures which will give a new impetus to the cause of Botanic medicine. [Ed. Jour.]

---

## Southern Department.

---

### HOMŒOPATHY.

We have been interested in reading a small work entitled a "Popular View of Homœopathy," by T. R. Everest. While we are far from giving our assent to the principles there inculcated, we look, notwithstanding, upon this practice as superior to the Allopathic. We are pleased with the manner in which it gives its deep thrusts to the deadly practices of bleeding, cupping, blistering, etc. Our object in this article is to notice two of the fundamental principles of Homœopathy, the last of which is not correct; and thus we shall claim the superiority of our *no poison* practice over that of Hahnemann, though he may administer these poisons in infinitesimal doses. The remarks we quote may be found on Pages 56 and 57 of the above work.

"We lay down two axioms, which will apply with equal truth to every system of medicine. In the first place, inasmuch as medicaments have,

one and all, the power of modifying and even producing vast changes in the organism, it will be granted, that the greatest caution should be used in the administration of them (,if they are poisons.—C.). Gifted as they are, with the faculty of affecting the health to an extent of which those who prescribe them are probably quite unaware, no risk can be run in asserting, that they should be employed only with the greatest discrimination, that none should ever be administered, excepting such as are adapted to the case, and those in the smallest quantity (,if they are poisons,) which not *guess* nor *belief* but *EXPERIENCE* shall teach us is necessary. To employ any unnecessary medicament, or any suitable one, in needlessly large doses, is, to say the least of it, to produce changes in the organism without advantage, always dangerous (,where poisons are the remedies,—C.), and to trifle egregiously with the most destructive instruments. In the next place, the removal of the symptoms of which a patient complains, with the least possible suffering, being the one and only object of the physician, and this removal being only to be effected by certain substances, which divine Providence has gifted with certain properties of acting on the living organization, it is the duty of the medical attendant, and it ought to be the chief end of his education, and object of his whole study, to make himself intimately acquainted with the nature, properties, and powers of each of these substances [This is all true, but the experiments should be made with harmless agents].

The tendency of the labors of his life should be, not metaphysical dreams, or impossible speculations about imaginary causes,—“about moonshine in the water;” but to determine vigorously wherein, under what circumstances, and to what extent, each of these substances possesses power of affecting the human organization;—the individual virtues of each individual medicament. He who prescribes a medicine before he knows the whole power it possesses of exciting disturbance in the organization, is as unfitted with such dangerous instruments, as the boy who knows not the effects of gunpowder, with a loaded gun.

The public should recollect, if the Professor will not, that, whenever an improper medicament is administered, or a proper one in improper quantities, an artificial disease is excited, &c. How true is this remark applied to poisonous remedies? And how little applicable to *our remedial agents*. There are very many Homœopathic notions, perfectly in accordance with *our theory* of diseases; and, if the followers of Hahnemann would only confine their prescriptions to innocuous agents, we should not complain.

The Homœopathic doctrine—“*similia similibus curantur*”—may be true; indeed, we can see nothing inconsistent with the established principles of the Botanic Practice, in admitting this motto to be correct; but, after this concession, we cannot see why every indication should not be fulfilled, by confining our prescriptions to harmless vegetable remedies, or those, which, if given in *large doses*, will do no hurt. It is altogether probable, that, if the distinguished founder of the Homœopathic System had experimented sufficiently extensively with Botanic remedies, he would have found, in the harmless vegetable kingdom, a substitute for the various poisons which he recommends.

*Macon, Ga., June, 1847.*

C.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanical-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., JULY 16, 1847. No. 14.

---

Home Department.

---

BOTANY.

[CONCLUDED.]

The chief improvement which has been made in the systematic department, since the days of Linnæus, consists in the approximations that have been made to a method of arrangement found on a more extended view of the relations of plants, than is taken in the Linnæan or artificial system. Linnæus himself would scarcely have expected, that his artificial method should exist, when the science had made sufficient progress to enable Botanists to revert to the principles of natural arrangement. The natural system of Botany is founded upon the principle, that the affinities of plants may be determined by a consideration of all the points of resemblance between their various parts, properties, and qualities; and that thence an arrangement may be deduced, in which those species will be placed next each other, which have the greatest resemblance and degree of relationship; and that, consequently, the quality and structure of an imperfectly known plant may be determined by those of another which is well known. By this system, therefore, the vegetable kingdom is thrown into groups or tribes; and whoever knows any one plant in any group will have some general idea of the appearance and qualities of the whole. The use of such a classification, for such as already know plants individually, is therefore obviously great; though, for discovering the names of particular species, it is, in its present state, less convenient than the Linnæan system; for, owing to the small number of plants which are yet

known to Botanists, the groups or tribes of the natural method are far from being perfect.

The first scheme for a natural method of arranging plants was communicated to the public by Linnæus himself, in his *Fragments of a Natural Method*, published in 1738. The next person who successfully traced the affinities of plants was B. Jussieu of Paris. In 1759, he displayed his method, in the arrangement of the plants, in the royal garden of Trianon near Paris. Afterwards Michael Adanson a pupil of Jussieu, who had travelled through parts of Africa, examined all the published systems, and paid the greatest attention to the natural affinities of vegetables, published a very learned and useful work (*Familles des Plantes*), in 1763. But it is to A. L. Jussieu of the National Institute, nephew of the elder Jussieu, that the science of natural affinity owes most; and his *Genera Plantarum*, published in 1789, is considered the most learned botanical work, that has appeared, since the species *Plantarum* of Linnæus, and the most useful to those who study the philosophy of botanical arrangements. Ventenat has given to the world a commentary on the writings of A. L. Jussieu; and, also, he has published a species *Plantarum*, arranged according to his method. Professor Decandolle of Geneva, considered one of the best French Botanists, is also a follower of this system, in which, too, he has made some improvements (*Théorie de la Botanique*, 1817), and he has also published a Species *Plantarum*, arranged according to his own improvements. The time has arrived when Botany should be presented and understood, as a system of nature, founded upon the principles of inductive philosophy. The study of this science, through the medium of the system of Jussieu, is adapted, not merely to the amusement of the mind, but eminently to its discipline. This system enters into almost every department of the science; it has given a new aspect to the whole face of it; and it reveals, more clearly than any other discovery has ever done, the beauty and simplicity of that plan on which the Creative power is exerted in the production of the countless forms of vegetable existence. The advantages of this system, in applying Botany to useful purposes, are also immensely important, especially for the healing of our diseases, and the alleviation of our wants and woes. A knowledge of the properties of one plant is a guide to the popular practitioner in the healing art, which enables him to substitute some other with confidence, which is naturally allied to it; and physicians may direct their inquiries, not empirically, but upon fixed principles, into the qualities of the medicinal plants which nature has provided in every region, for the alleviation and cure of the maladies peculiar to it. To horticulturists it is not less important, and necessary. The propagation or cultivation of one plant is applicable to all its kindred; the habits of one species in an order will often be those of the rest; and, finally, the phenomena of grafting, that curious operation which is one of the grand features of distinction between the animal and vegetable kingdom, and the success of which is wholly controlled by ties of blood, can only be understood and appreciated by the student of the natural system.

It is not necessary, nor is it intended, in this introductory lecture, to enlarge upon the universal use of the vegetable kingdom in the dietetics of every country. It furnishes, directly or indirectly, all our food; and it may be observed, that, in every age but the present, the vegetable

kingdom has also formed the chief articles of the *Materia Medica* of all countries. At present, however, the mineral kingdom is chiefly resorted to by the conceited and aristocratical practitioner of the healing art in this country; but, notwithstanding this, plants still maintain their ground in other countries, and among a very considerable proportion of the people even here, and fashion, which enters into every thing, may perhaps effect a change, even in this respect, after having exercised a certain degree of influence. And why not? Has a beneficent Creator placed the means of sustaining our bodies in health upon the surface of the earth, within our immediate grasp, and the means of restoring our health, when sick, within its bowels? Impossible! The goodness of Deity could not do this,—could not suffer this! So it follows, that, whether we consult the nature of man, of disease, or of Deity, the evidence and the result are irresistible, that the vegetable kingdom alone furnishes the most proper remedies for the healing of our diseases, and the alleviation of our wants and woes.

One of the particular objects of these lectures (, to which this is only introductory), is to introduce the science of Botany as intimately connected with medical knowledge, with the profession of which it has always been identified. Several ancient nations, such as the Grecians, Romans, Hindoos, Chinese, &c., considered medical Botany as equivalent to both botanical and medical knowledge. Medicine was formerly and is still, among rude nations, nothing more than the application of an empirical knowledge of vegetable substances. At the revival of learning in Europe, this notion being general, the first works on Botany were, of course, mere sketches of medical Botany, and comments on Grecian and Roman writers. When Tournefort and Linnæus, more than a hundred years ago, became botanical reformers and made Botany a separate science, their efforts and improvements were resisted and ridiculed, by those who, at all times, contend against useful innovations. Linnæus, in his *Materia Medica*, gave a model of systematical medical Botany equally concise, perspicuous, and accurate, but, of course, destitute of the help of figures or plates, and other modern improvements. This model was followed by Schoepf, in his *Materia Medica* of North America, the first general work of the medical plants of this continent,—though published, in Germany and in Latin, about the year 1787. This important though small work of Schoepf has never been translated or republished in America, although remarkably useful and highly deserving it. Before this continent became known and settled, the native tribes were in possession of many valuable vegetable remedies, discovered by long experience, the knowledge of which they gradually imparted to their neighbors. This knowledge, partly adopted even as far as Europe, and partly rejected by medical skeptics, became scattered through different parts of the country, in the hands of country practitioners, botanists, herbalists, and empirics. Schoepf himself collected his materials from them, and noticed about three hundred and sixty plants as medical; but he did not go every where, nor did he exhaust the subject, since far more than double that number are actually in common use in the different States of the Union. Since the United States have become an independant and flourishing nation, much has been done, and more is doing to teach and spread correct

botanical medical knowledge. The establishment of medical Schools, and Institutes, and Colleges has largely contributed to impart medical botanical knowledge, through the professional classes. This purpose has also been essentially aided by numerous publications of learned physicians and botanists. Notwithstanding all these means, it is a positive and deplorable fact, that but few medical practitioners apply themselves to the study of Botany, and therefore are deprived of the aid of this very important branch of natural history. It is not less certain but still more deplorable, that, beyond the immediate sphere of medical knowledge, the majority of the people are yet a prey to medical credulity, superstition, and delusion (, *witness the numerous patent medicines that abound*), in which they are confirmed by the repeated failures of theorists, and the occasional success of their rivals.

Even in large cities, and in the centre of medical light, these medicines and these rivals are thriving, because they avail themselves of the resources afforded by active plants, often neglected or unknown to the regular practitioner. It is, therefore, needful and important to spread still further correct medical knowledge; and the state of botanical medical science, at present, is such, in the United States, as to require a greater diffusion of this essential and important information, aided by freedom of inquiry, liberal views, and mutual forbearance. By Botany medical substances, in great variety, are ascertained, and become available; while the study of natural affinities enables the practitioner to detect and compare botanical and medical equivalents. Medical Botany enables us to know and appreciate the most important, as well as the greatest number of articles employed in the *Materia Medica*, and is therefore become indispensable to the successful practitioner. Vegetable chemistry analyzes vegetable substances, discovers their active principles, and relative medical value, and ascertains the equivalent or incompatible substances. Works on medical Botany are of two kinds, with or without figures or plates. The last kind includes all the *Materia Medica*s, *Dispensatories*, *Pharmacopœias*, &c. &c., which are intended to convey the knowledge of medical substances by mere descriptions. The other kind, and the most useful and important, employ Iconography or figures and plates, with all the descriptive references, to give a complete knowledge of the officinal plants;—such are *Medical Botanies*, *Herbals*, *Floras*, &c. &c. Bigelow and W. Barton published, some years ago and about the same time, two voluminous and expensive works on medical Botany. Barton's work, in two volumes quarto, contains only fifty plants and figures; and Bigelow's, sixty, in three volumes of similar size. Several plants are described and figures in both works, reducing the total number of medical plants given to about eighty, for which the price is near \$40 per 100, or about half a dollar for every plant. These imperfect and costly works have each their merit; and, although not free from errors and omissions, are useful assistants to those who can afford to buy them. Bigelow's is the most learned, accurate, and useful, while Barton's has often the best plates. Works of general utility ought to be accurate, complete, portable, and cheap. Such alone can spread essential and important knowledge, and suit every class of readers. It is time, that we should return to the pristine Linnæan simplicity; and, by the

addition of cheap but correct figures of objects, speak to the eyes, as well as to the mind and understanding. We are still so young in the study of Botany, that our language is deficient to express her most common objects. This is so true, that, however exact the description of plants may be, though compiled by Botanists of the very best ability, it is impossible to distinguish them in the fields, unless they have been seen previously in nature, or by the means of plates and figures, or at least in an herbarium. Persons who flatter themselves they have made great proficiency in Botany, need only attempt to draw on paper a plant which they have never seen, after the description of the most accurate Botanist, to be convinced how necessary and important are correct, though cheap plates, or representations of plants, in any Flora. Such is the particular aim of the very popular and important work (*Good's Family Flora*), I have the pleasure to introduce to your notice, and which is another particular object of this introductory lecture. It is a periodical published monthly, intended as a cheap (\$1.50 yearly), and portable manual of medical Botany, in connection with every possible information relative to plants. It has been many years in contemplation, and is now offered to the public, as an humble attempt to render one of the most important branches of natural history attainable and available by all. For the sake of perspicuity and convenience, every article or separate plant is divided into sections, and made complete, perfect, and independant in itself, so that individuals may arrange them to suit their own taste and judgment. The names are at the head. The Botanical name appears first, then follows the common or vulgar name, after having affixed the particular tribe to which the plant belongs. Next comes a short epitome or bird's eye view of the plant, mentioning its native place, its quality, its power, and its use. The botanical analysis, the natural history, and the chemical and medical properties of each which follow, give a complete and practical knowledge of the plant, necessary for the daily use of all who are interested in the healing of our diseases and the alleviation of our wants and woes. Of all the subjects in philosophy, that which pertains to the healing of the diseases and the alleviation of the wants and woes of man, is undoubtedly one of the most interesting and important. Every discovery, therefore, in this imperfectly explored region, should be hailed with joy by every votary of science, and by every friend of man. The periodical here alluded to is not designed to supersede the invaluable writings of others, nor does it profess to be wholly original; but it does lay claim to many important and interesting improvements in a subject, singularly neglected, though peculiarly popular, and, in many respects, indispensable to the family of man. These improvements consist mainly in presenting many new and useful views upon the subject,—in bringing forward several new facts, and the result of many observations and successful experiments, which serve as new proofs of the truth of the science and illustrations of its principles and utility;—and, more than all, in presenting the subject in a far more popular and practical form by the means of plates or figures, beautifully colored to nature, than has ever heretofore been done.

*From the Middletown Sentinel and Witness.*

## DEFENCE AGAINST ALLOPATHIC ABUSE.

MR. STARR,—I am called upon to reply to another Esculapian, who takes the place of Dr. Nye, and shows a spirit unlike the man who believes that "facts," where life and health are concerned, "are a mighty deal preferable to idle speculations." I am much mistaken, if this effort enrolls his name in "imperishable characters on the portals of the Esculapian Temple." The inscription over its entrance, "*procul este profani*," would serve as a barrier to his entrance, and admonish him, that none but the pure in soul could enter such a sacred place. It is with feelings of regret, that I am called upon to defend my character and course of practice, against such an unmanly and unjustifiable course, as has characterized the "humble pupil," (I give him the name he has applied to himself,) in his endeavor to defend a system which, he claims, has such a mighty host of testimony in its favor. I shall not follow him in all his wanderings and inconsistencies, but shall endeavor to point out some of his most glaring defects—to vindicate my course of practice—and save my character from the charge of quackery, dishonesty, and imposition—names and charges quite common with a certain class of men, who, pursuing an admitted erroneous course themselves, have a large list of hard names at their command to deal out against those who dare pursue a more rational course,—one best suited to the wants and expectations of community. The "humble pupil" deserves and probably will gain, "a transient notoriety" for his style of reasoning. He enters the field of exclusiveness, bombastus-like, and threatens to annihilate "the infamous Thomsonian humbug." How far he may succeed in proving the Thomsonian system a "dictionary of stark-staring absurdities," I leave with the community to decide, who judge impartially. He professes to be a great lover of facts—says "they are a mighty deal preferable to idle speculations;" yet he makes assertions which may prove him chargeable with falsehood or gross ignorance. Some of the proofs I shall endeavor to introduce, as I proceed in my reply.

He says, that I endeavored to charge upon the whole medical profession of the county, the odium of quackery, to shield myself from the effects of my own inconsistent system. I did endeavor to prove, from Dr. Nye's own admission, and the testimony of those of the regular profession, (I shall give them this title, because the "humble pupil" prefers it,) whose testimony I introduced, and who, I thought, were entitled to a good share of credibility, being men who stood high in the medical profession,—that the Thomsonian physician, who understood the nature and effect of his remedies, devoted more time to acquire a knowledge of their effect on the human system, than he who claimed the title of M. D. If this charges upon all of the M. D's. "the odium of quackery," I am willing to make the "amende honorable." If the Thomsonian physician is acquainted with the various inroads of disease on the human system, and the remedies which the God of Nature has provided for him, (as well as others who claim an exclusive right and knowledge,) administers them with success, and gains the confidence of that portion of community who employ him—if he is denounced as a "quack" and "imposter"—if he



has the feeling of a man, he would express it, not like a "bird which had been dreadfully hit and flutters badly," as described by the "humble pupil," but like a being who expresses feelings unlike the bird who has been wounded by wanton, unfeeling man—a being claiming some of the attributes common to humanity.

What is understood by the term quack? A quack is one who deals in medicine, of the nature and effect of which, he is ignorant—one who boasts of a knowledge he does not possess. History informs us, that early in the sixteenth century, Paracelsus introduced his chemical system to the medical world, and, with it, the startling intelligence, that he had found the grand panacea—a universal remedy for all diseases. This, for a time, he kept a secret, and many flocked to him to be healed of their diseases, and become invincible to death. The Galenists or doctors of that day, gave him and his followers the name of quack, because he used an article which they believed to be unsafe and injurious. If the name was an appropriate one for those who used it then, may it not apply to those of the present day who use it in their every day practice? Are its effects more certain? This is the origin of the word quack; and, though belonging to them, they freely apply the name to those who have the manliness to adopt a course, different from their ever changing and condemned systems of unsuccessful experiment.

It is a fact, admitted by the public, that he is the best physician who effects the greatest number of cures, in the least time, and with the least risk to his patients. Many of those who have gone through with certain forms, and received the title of M. D., must not be disappointed, if, as physicians, the public regard their diplomas with as much indifference as the "humble pupil" would a "leather medal," which he thinks ought to be awarded to Thomson and his followers, for their discoveries. The "humble pupil" says, The Thomsonian system is sustained by charlatans and imposters, for the sake of gain, who are harping continually about mineral poisons, &c. If these assertions had been correct, the people would have made the discovery without his assistance, and the inference is, that, whether the subject of mineral poisons is turned to profit by the Thomsonians, or not, the people are renouncing them to his disadvantage. Dr. Thomson introduced his system to the world, for their approval or rejection. It came unclothed in language unknown to the common people; and, notwithstanding the cry of "ignorance, imposition, and quackery," by the doctors, and the unwillingness of the people to expect any thing better than what they have been taught to believe of the poisoning and depleting course of practice, as pursued by most of the Drs., it has found favor with a great portion of an enlightened and reasoning community, who may require more proof than mere denunciation and ridicule, to show them their utter disregard to all that appertains to life and health. It is the public who sustain the Thomsonian system, and not those who practice it. Does the "humble pupil" suppose, that a system which has withstood such an array of opposition and influence, as has been thrown in its way is to be now rejected;—that, where life and health are concerned, people would adopt and still pursue, an extremely hazardous course, when a safe one was within the reach of all, and presented such weighty claims, as he has endeavored to show?

The answer is at hand. The imperfections of their system, (if system it may be called,) and the unsafety and inefficiency of their remedies, are reasons why the people do not patronize it, and give it that support which its practitioners wish. That the Vegetable Materia Medica has been, and still is open to the regular physician, I do not deny; but it has remained a dead letter; its pages have not been read by the great mass of physicians; they have been neglected, to search among the hidden productions of the mineral kingdom, or to extract the more deadly poisons from the vegetable productions, to experiment on the ills of life. Will the "humble pupil" inform me, whether Dioscorides, Pliny, Hippocrates, Cullen, Vogt, and Barton, (names which he says I "must have forgotten, if it fell to my lot ever to know,") or any of his medical writers and discoverers ever used, or recommended in their works, any of the medicines used by Dr. Thomson, or for the purpose which he used them, before his day? I am willing to admit, that most of the articles were known to botanists, and their names given; but where, before Dr. Thomson's day, was the discoverer or the discoverers of medicines which he introduced? I am inclined to believe, that, in his eagerness to introduce a large list of names to overwhelm his opponent, he brings forward some with whom he is not so familiar, as a longer course of study would make him. When a benefactor introduces a system, originating with himself, and passes through all the grades of medical persecution, even to imprisonment for daring to teach and practice a system, contrary to one which, from time to time, has been condemned by its own practising members—when a large and enlightened portion of community, have adopted it as their only hope against the inroads of disease, and men, claiming a regard for truth, start up and denounce it,—when, with the same breath, they claim the honor of having been the discoverers, and claim the remedies as belonging exclusively to their Materia Medica,—when they do this, to satisfy the demand of justice to those whom they charge with pursuing a suicidal course, by employing those who practice such a wholesale system of "stark-staring absurdities," they ought to produce stronger proof, than abusive epithets or groundless assertions.

He intimates disappointment, that I did not come out with a "manful vindication of my glorious system, and give some exposition of its principles, preferences, and beauties." I would say to the "humble pupil," I shall endeavor to "manfully vindicate" my principles and course of practice, as far as proof is necessary; and, when the "preferences" and "beauties" of the system are called for, by any thing claiming the appearance of reason or argument, I shall endeavor to show the proof, and leave the public to decide, satisfied that, as I am the defendant, the public will not require me to defend my cause any farther than proof is brought to oppose it.

He says, I just set myself to work and hunted up a few extracts from some of the Medical Journals; and for his part he believes but little of them. Perhaps, when he has lived as long, and seen as much of the effect of "powerful medicine," and the inefficiency of the system which he, in the ardor of youth and inexperience, hopes to realize a knowledge of, he may think with Dr. Good, one of his medical brothers, the author of a Medical Work entitled, "Good's Study of Medicine," who says,

"The science of medicine is a barbarous jargon, and the effects of our medicine on the human system are, in the highest degree, uncertain, except, indeed, that they have already destroyed more lives than war, pestilence, and famine combined. And again, the distinguished Dr. Rush, celebrated for his heroic practice, says, "We have assisted in multiplying diseases; we have done more—we have increased their mortality." Another celebrated writer, Dr. Abercrombie says, "We own our system defective, and the action of our remedies in the highest degree uncertain." Will he deny, that their science of medicine is not the same, or the action of their remedies as uncertain now, as when these honest admissions were made? Can the "humble pupil" think the "reformers" would be guilty of "hiding behind the short comings" of such a system, which, according to the testimony of its own "Oracles," (I might quote more,) is dealing such a wholesale slaughter among mankind? Would not a man of reason be less guilty, to practice any system which has the least show of reason or consistency? Well may he exclaim, with a good show of reason, "Why, forsooth, the regulars kill folks too."

He says, the next portion of the article requires a more serious attention. The ridiculous assumption about herbs and vegetable medicines, he might pass over, as too contemptible for notice, &c. The "intended inference" is, that he was fearful the reader would think the "next portion" too true, "so he just sets himself to work," and labors hard, to prove him destitute of principle and honesty. How far he has succeeded, I leave the reader to decide.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## ENCOURAGEMENT.

[The following friendly letter was seasonably received by us, but laid aside and overlooked till now. We have lately had the pleasure of some personal acquaintance with the writer, and assure him, that we are grateful for the interest which he manifests in the cause which we have espoused. Ed. Jour.]

*Liberty Hill, March 2, 1847.*

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—Though an utter stranger to you, still I feel a deep interest in the cause, to promote which you are putting forth your well directed and efficient efforts. May kind Heaven crown your labors with complete success. Only let us have medical Institutions, good medical Journals, and a plenty of thoroughly educated, well qualified Practitioners, and the cause of Medical Reform must go on and prosper,—blessing the nations of the earth in relieving suffering humanity. The experience of more than twenty years in the healing art, upon the principles of the Botanic Practice, strongly confirms me in the faith, that innocent vegetables, acting in perfect harmony with the laws of life and health, are the proper remedial agents to be employed in restoring the sick to health; and that poisonous substances, from whatever source obtained, are unsafe and injurious, and should therefore be entirely discarded by the Practitioner. I greatly rejoice, that a Botanico-Medical College is now in successful operation in New England, and in so delightful a part of it as

Worcester. I ardently hope, and humble pray, that the establishment and operation of said Institution may prove a great and lasting blessing to New England, and to the world.

But, sir, I did not sit down to write you a long letter ;—it was principally to say, that I have received, of your valuable Journal, the Nos. for Jan. and Feb., and that I am so well pleased with the work, that I wish to be considered a subscriber. I have shown the paper to Dr. Edwin C. Babcock of this place, who highly approves of it, and authorizes me to forward his name as a subscriber. He wishes the back numbers of the present volume. Our Post Office address is, *Liberty Hill, Connecticut*. Enclosed are two dollars, as pay in advance for both of us.

Wishing you, and your journal, and the College over which you have the honor to preside, abundant success, and the constant blessing of Almighty God,

I am, sir, respectfully yours,

EBENEZER ROBINSON.

## THE VITAL PRINCIPLE REVIEWED.

*Lebanon, Conn., June 15, 1847.*

DR. NEWTON :—*Dear Sir*,—In your paper of the 16th, I noticed an article headed THE VITAL PRINCIPLE, wherein the writer evidently attempts to display his science, in a manner unsurpassed, upon a theory of which he is entirely ignorant. He commences by asking *What is life?* and ends by asking *What is life?* He goes on, and, in his own imagination, entirely uproots Dr. THOMSON'S theory of Heat is Life! And why? Because he either wilfully or ignorantly would not understand it. Dr. Thomson never meant to be understood as saying, that the more heat there is, the more life. Nor did he mean, that heat and life are synonymous, as the writer would like to make out, by his misconstruction of the terms. He then asks, Is it electricity? or is it organization? or is it breath? No, none of these; but he finally settles down upon the blood. Yes, the blood is the life with him; but it yet remains for him to prove, that the blood has any more to do with the life, than the breath or any other agent that constitutes the body of man. Take any of the vital powers away, and does it not destroy life, as quickly as if you take away the blood? How, then, does he prove that the blood is the life? Perhaps, when he has seen a few more years, he will look back and review his egregious error. He certainly could not have known, that he was writing on a subject which the most learned philosophers have not been able to expound.

No man has ever come nearer to the philosopher's stone of life than Dr. ARNOTT. He says, "The functions by which the animal body assumes foreign matters from around, and converts them into its own substance, is little inviting in some of its details; but, taken altogether, is one of the most wonderful subjects which can engage the human attention. It points directly to the curious yet unanswerable question—What is life? The student of nature may analyze, with all his art, these min-

ute portions of the matter called seeds, which he knows to be the rudiments of future creatures, and the links by which endless generations of living creatures spring into existence; but he cannot disentangle and display apart their mysterious LIFE—that something, under the influence of which it determines its form and proportions. One such substance thus becomes a beauteous rose bush; another a noble oak; a third an eagle; a fourth an elephant; yea, in the same way, out of the rudest materials of broken seeds, and leaves of plants, and pits of animal flesh, is built up the human frame itself, whether of the male, combining gracefulness and strength, or the gentler woman, with beauty around her, as light. How passing strange, that such could be the origin of the human eye, whose glance pierces as if the invisible soul was shot with it,—of the lips, which pour sweetest eloquence,—of the larynx, which, by vibrating, fills the surrounding air with music.

And, furthermore, a writer\* in the London Medical and Physical Journal, whose remarks were copied into the Eclectic, Vol. 1st, No. 20, does not say, that the blood is the life, but he ends in the dark, where all other writers have ended, except F. W. E. in the Journal; and he ends still farther in the dark than any of them.

Dr. T. L. Terry, Dr. Curtis, and a host of others, have begun and ended, likewise, without ever proving one atom of their theory correct. It would be as impossible for mortal man to find one essential agent alone that composed life, as it would be to find the philosopher's stone. All the organs together constitute life; and, by taking *any* essential one away, we take away like.

E. ROBINSON.

[There are sometimes reasons which we deem sufficient to justify the insertion of communications, the sentiments of which we do not fully endorse. We were well aware, that the writer of the article headed **THE VITAL PRINCIPLE**, had failed entirely to prove the truth of his position. We were willing, however, to let our readers judge for themselves of the correctness of the reasoning. We assure our good friend Robinson, that he needs not be alarmed for the safety of those medical principles which he holds dear. We are well acquainted with F. W. E., and know him to be as thorough-going a Botanic as the writer of the above. As to those views of the vital principle, here made the subject of comment, they are, it is true, liable to the objections pointed out. But, by the way, we regard the last sentence of the above communication as peculiarly unfortunate; for we have not *sconce* enough to perceive wherein the definition of life here given, is superior to that of F. W. E. If "all the organs together constitute life," we cannot see how the taking away of any one can take away any more than a *constituent part* of life; and the parts taken away must differ, according as one or another organ is removed. As to the expression of Dr. Thomson, "Heat is life," all know, that he was infidel in religious belief, and we have never doubted, that he meant to be literally understood. We put this down as one of his errors. We embrace fully the *many* correct sentiments which he has taught us. But while we "gather the good into vessels," we hesitate not to "cast the bad away." Ed. Jour.]

## METASTASIS.

PROF. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—The translation of a disease from one part to another, I should suppose, was generally not well understood, from the tenor of communications, from Prof. Comings, in the 3d No. of your Journal, termed—"Lacteal Metastasis, and also, in the 6th No. from Dr. O. B. Lyman, termed "Catamenial Metastasis." Prof. Comings says, "We feel disposed to give credence to these facts, and we find them to be countenanced, not only by good authority, but by sound pathology;" and, after some quotations from Dr. Andral, he closes by asking the question", "Why then doubt the facts, as stated by Dr. Herron?" Dr. Lyman, after reporting his case, remarks, "I had never seen one like it before, nor have I since." Query—"Was this a case of catamenial metastasis." As the queries imply, on the part of these gentlemen, a possibility of error in their conclusions, and a fear, that, although they may themselves be satisfied with the correctness of their conclusions, others might be disposed to doubt;—these reasons have disposed me to pursue the subject a little further. I consider it a well attested pathological fact, beyond doubt or cavil, that, when from *any* cause, any of the internal organs fail to take on their proper secretions, those secretions will be transferred to some other part of the viscera; and the action thus produced, being unnatural, irritation, with its train of consequences, must legitimately follow. As, for instance, in the "*Asiatic cholera*," the secretion of urine and of bile, of tears and of saliva is wholly suppressed. The fluids are either carried off by stool, or ejected from the stomach. In one case of cholera which came under my notice and care, there was a total suppression of urine for 36 hours. Profuse dejections followed, and then most vehement and profuse emesis. Also, about 4 years since, in the (then) Territory of Iowa, I witnessed a case of Catamenial metastasis, which I treated successfully. The person was a married lady of 35. At the time I was called, there was nearly a total suppression of the catamenial discharge, attended with a very troublesome cough and constant spitting of blood, or, more correctly, a substance much like the *catamenia*; and what was still more astonishing to me, was the fact, that, for 3 or 4 days after this discharge, profuse sputa followed, resembling the discharges in leucorrhœa. Again, a case of lacteal metastasis came under my observation last October. It was induced by the neglect of the nurse, in not drawing the breasts as often as necessary, about eight days after parturition, the child having been "still-born."—As, in the case reported by Dr. Herron, so in this, from the bowels ensued a copious vicarious discharge of milk, not a drop of that fluid being secreted in the breasts;—and, when the bowels were in some degree checked, a profuse expectoration followed,—the sputa being of a peculiarly singular character; which, from what I had before witnessed in metastasis, and, as, in this case, the lochial discharge had *also* ceased, I looked upon as the natural result of an unnatural action, arising from the suppression and translation of those two fluids. Now I would ask, can any doubt arise, in the mind of the well informed pathologist, of the correctness of my conclusion?—I should think not. Yet one of our somewhat celebrated doctors declared, that this phenomenon

was caused by the use of *calomel*; and Dr. D. a Botanic, had the assurance! (I cannot say less,) to report the same in Hartford at the meeting of the Botanic Medical Society in May last. Did an *unworthy motive* prompt them in their declarations? Or, are they *ignorant*? To me, it is immaterial which horn of the dilemma they take. That the youthful Practitioner should not well understand these phenomena is not strange; but the more experienced have no excuse for their doubts and ignorance. In the language of one whom we all honor, I would say, "In the knowledge of the *origin* of a malady, and its *antidote*, lies the weightier matters of the science of medicine. This knowledge makes the genuine physician. All without it, is real quackery."

Excuse this digression. Other facts confirmatory of my position have come under my observation. And I doubt not, but volumes might be gathered upon this point, to confirm, and substantiate all that has been adduced by Prof. C., Dr. L., and myself. But enough for the present.

Bristol, Conn.

G. N. LANGDON.

## DR. BUTTERFIELD AGAIN.

Dr. Kost, in the Botanico-Medical Reformer of March 29th, has published the letter of Dr. J. Butterfield's attorney, in which he makes an arrogant demand on Dr. K. for a retraction of "a base, unmitigated, and libellous falsehood," contained in an article copied, from our paper, into the Reformer. Dr. K. does not plead guilty to the charge, and declines to subscribe to the retraction, the form of which is given him; but he publishes the letter of Dr. Osgood, which appeared in the 9th No. of our paper, and in which the truthfulness of all that was said in the "Interesting Incident" is reiterated.

Dr. K. thinks, with Dr. O., that Dr. Butterfield of Columbus cannot be the individual with whom Dr. O. conversed on board the steamer North America; for he cannot persuade himself, "that a man of Prof. Butterfield's mind, were he really the man, would be likely to take the reckless course he did, on the appearance of the article, when he must know, with almost absolute certainty, that all the facts would be fully developed, and thus the matter rendered infinitely worse with him." The attorney, however, admits, that his client is the identical Dr. Butterfield who was the author of the report of the case in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, headed "Case of Death from Thomsonianism." In view of these facts, those who take an interest in the matter must judge for themselves where truth lies. We have only to remark, that Dr. Osgood is a man *incapable* of deception. There are, therefore, but two possible suppositions in the case. One is, that Professor Butterfield of Columbus is really the man with whom Dr. Osgood conversed, and that all this *bluster* has been made, with the intent to shield his professional character against an influence tending to place him in a light in which he does not wish to appear before the public. The other supposition is, that some unknown individual took the liberty, in conversation with Dr. O., to palm himself

off as Dr. Butterfield, formerly of Lowell, Mass. That this latter supposition is an extremely improbable one appears from the difficulty of conceiving what motive any one could have to act such a fictitious part. We would not unjustly accuse Prof. Butterfield of Columbus; but, inasmuch as Dr. Osgood has described the personal appearance of the man with whom he conversed on board the steamer, it seems to us, that some further light might be thrown on this subject, and our *bump* of curiosity would be gratified, by the full development of the truth.

---

### THE CONTEMPLATED BOTANIC CONVENTION.

Our paper goes to press before the *coming-off* of this Convention on the 14th inst.; and, for the benefit of those who may receive this number in season, we would say, that numerous delegates from all the New England States and from New York are expected to be present. It will be an auspicious day to our cause. The interest awakened, all through the States referred to, far exceeds our most sanguine expectations; and we shall be disappointed, if the measures which shall be adopted, shall not give a new and important impulse to the cause of medical education. But one sentiment now prevails among our friends on this subject. The motto of all is—Onward. Truth does not fear the light; and, the more true knowledge is gained, the more firmly shall we find ourselves resting on the foundation of truth. Come on, then, friends; and give us the aid of your deliberations. You will receive from us a hearty welcome; and, in the good which you will do, you will secure, we trust, a reward for your sacrifices and pains. The matters which will come before the Convention are of the most important nature, and we want the combined wisdom of as many as can possibly attend.

---

## Southern Department.

### COMPOUNDS.

In the experiments which we are continually making, and during our observations on the *modus operandi* of the various articles of our *Materia Medica*, we are fully convinced, that we use too many articles in our compounds. Our ignorance of the virtues of many of our plants, which are compounded in the great laboratory of nature, *may* be some justification for our efforts to compensate this deficit; but we have long been convinced, that, if we were fully acquainted with the specific properties of all our agents, we should not be forced to the necessity of compounding.



It is not a *chemical analysis*, or such a knowledge of the virtues of plants as we obtain by means of the crucible, or heat, or such as are made known by chemical affinity out of the system, that we want; for the human stomach is superior to all these, and the analysis which it makes is very different from that made by any other process;—but it is such a knowledge, as will give us the specified effect of each one of our harmless vegetable remedies on the human constitution. Let us illustrate by an example. Take the *leontodon taraxacum* (, dandelion). This plant is said to be diuretic, diaphoretic, aperient, antispasmodic, tonic, alterative, &c. This *may* be true. Perhaps the dandelion has all these properties, and many more. If, by experiment on a large variety of subjects, we find this to be the case, it may be judiciously and happily applied to a great number of patients. Take also the *eupatorium perfoliatum* (, boneset), which is said to be tonic, stimulant, emetic, aperient, &c. So we might enumerate a large number of others. In fact *all* our remedial agents may be so compounded in nature as to possess every property which we desire in the healing art.

There is so much uncertainty in those compounds which *we* make, that it is almost impossible to acquire an accurate knowledge of their properties. We often put from 3 to 8 or 10 different articles into one mass, in varying quantities; and, after such a conglomeration, we are not able even to guess at the effect of the preparation, even if we are *fully* acquainted with the simples, which we have used. But we are profoundly ignorant of the properties of *all* our simples. What, then, must be our ignorance of the effects of such a compound as we have supposed?

When taken into the stomach, is it thought, that each ingredient will separate and proceed forthwith to execute the duty it was ordered to do? Or, suppose we find, that good results from this compound dose, do we know which one ingredient went to the diseased organ? or whether all were concerned? Who can tell, in that shower of grape-shot, which struck the malady? As it is true, that our remedies are compounded in nature, we can have no doubt as to their being so mixed, as to have the *just* proportions and the *suitable* ingredients.

The attention of our Fraternity ought to be turned more particularly to this subject; and, instead of inventing new compounds, let us strive to find out the properties of those that a divine Providence has already compounded for us.

How wonderfully a beneficent Creator has compounded the rhubarb, so that it possesses an *astringent* and yet an *aperient* effect,—properties that seem to us to counteract each other! What compound can finite man make equal to *that*, in certain forms of disease! We might instance other simples of a similar kind.

We are far from advocating the disuse of all *artificial* compounds. We only desire, that our practitioners should experiment *more* with our simples, and rely more constantly on their effects.

Macon, Ga. July, 1847.

(C.)

## SOUTHERN CO-OPERATION.

The subscriber is now in Macon Georgia, and will be pleased to receive any communications from our Southern friends, or any remittances for the Journal. We shall use our best endeavors to keep our Southern Department filled with interesting matter, as we have the promise, from very many valuable correspondents, of assistance in our labors.

Macon, June, 1847.

I. M. COMINGS.

## LOBELIA.

*Dear Sir*,—As the article “lobelia” is a subject of considerable interest and attention in almost every variety of medical systems in this part of the country, I shall feel myself peculiarly obliged, if you will give me information concerning its *botanical* nature and its therapeutic effects upon the human body,—its *modus operandi*; and, as I do not doubt, you have exhibited the article to all varieties of temperament, ages, sexes, and constitutional conditions, you will please give me your views concerning the modifying effects which these circumstances may exert over the therapeutic action of the article.

From a careful observation of its effect upon a child of 18 months of age, I am convinced, it cannot contain any *narcotic* principle. It seems to lessen somewhat the *force* of the heart and arteries, as most efficient emetics do, without *emesis*’ seeming to be the result of that extreme prostration and relaxation, which follow the exhibition of the nicotiana. Vomiting, under such circumstances, seems rather to be the last recuperative effort of sinking nature, than the specific effect of an emetic,—I mean the vomiting that attends general narcotics.

Any information you feel disposed to give me, relative to one of the most important articles of the vegetable kingdom, will be greatly received. Public attention is directed to the subject here; and, I doubt not, if the system of Botanic medicine was more generally understood, it would find many advocates. Indeed, there are some of the allopathists who are very favorably impressed with what they have here witnessed of the effects of lobelia on one of my servants.

Your early attention is respectfully requested to this epistle, and, believe me, with high consideration, &c., your obedient servant,

N. O. I. STALEY.

[Essentially our views of the nature and *modus operandi* of lobelia may be found in an article which we copied from the Thomsonian into the 6th No. of the Journal. We are aware, however, that these views are liable to some objections, as is every theory which we have yet seen. We intend to say something farther on this subject at a future time; and, in the mean while, we invite an expression of the views of our correspondents. The subject is an important one, and merits further investigation. Ed. Journal.]

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., AUGUST 1, 1847. No. 15.

---

Home Department.

---

CASE OF MORTIFICATION OF THE INTERIOR OF THE  
CHEEKS, AND NECROSIS OF THE INFERIOR MAXIL-  
LARY BONE.

*Mr. Editor*,—About the 1st of June, 1846, the daughter of Mr. F., of this city, a child between four and five years of age, possessing the scrofulous diathesis, was attacked with measles. The premonitory symptoms were rather severe, yet the eruption came out, and remained out well; and, with the aid of very mild treatment, the disease went through its course, without any thing remarkable. After she had recovered from the measles, she unfortunately caught cold, which produced severe inflammation of the bronchial linings, attended with pneumonia of a typhoid character. On the 14th of June, the day I first saw her, her symptoms were as follows;—sunken countenance; considerable stupor; pulse small and quick, yielding to slight pressure; temperature of the surface below the healthy standard, with considerable inequality; a yellowish coat on the middle of the tongue, with intense redness of the edges; pain in the head, back, limbs, and right side; respiration very difficult; some rattling in the throat; hard cough; very little expectoration; muscular strength much reduced; position on the back; continual moaning; some delirium; bowels costive. Percussion gave a dull sound, on both sides of the chest, but more marked on the right. On applying the ear to the chest, I could hear distinctly a crackling sound, called, by some authors, *crepitant ronchus*, and *crepitant rale*, and by others, *minute crepitation*. Mixed with the crepitation, could be heard the respiratory murmur, but the for-

mer predominated. A very careful and thorough examination could not be made on account of the age of the child, and the pain to which moving seemed to subject her. While making the examination, I noticed a peculiar fætor of the breath, which induced me to examine the mouth more thoroughly; and, upon doing so, I discovered a number of small ulcers, much like canker sores in appearance, with the exception of their being more ragged, and of a darker color.

The mother informed me, that the child had always been sickly, and that she had taken a great deal of medicine in her life-time, a good share of which was mercury.

Taking all the facts of the case into consideration, I could not conscientiously give a favorable prognosis.

Treatment.—A tincture of lobelia, five parts, and blood root, one part, with a very little cayenne, was ordered to be given in doses of ten drops every hour, in a tea of ginger and catnip. The last preparation was ordered to be given freely. Drafts of onions, sprinkled with mustard, were applied to the breast and feet, also a bottle of hot water to the latter. I gave directions, as soon as re-action took place, to wrap her in a sheet wrung out of hot water, and a blanket around that.

15th.—Medicine operated well, produced vomiting and free perspiration. Patient slept somewhat while in the sheet. Appears somewhat better. Temperature of the surface more equal. Countenance more natural. Respiration more free. Ordered the same treatment, with the addition of cold to the head.

16th.—Patient much the same as yesterday. Had rather a restless night. Had some pain in the bowels. Enemas were administered, but gave no relief. Prescribed two teaspoonfuls of castor oil, to be repeated in two hours, if the first did not operate. Directed to omit the sheet at night, but to continue the drops and tea.

17th.—Patient a little better than yesterday. Rested better last night. Oil had to be repeated, but operated well. Skin warmer and moist. Tongue a little cleaner. Sores in the mouth look better. I had forgotten to mention, that we had been washing the mouth often with a strong tea of raspberry leaves and gold thread.

18th.—Patient much better this morning. Countenance natural. Tongue almost clean. Pulse slower and stronger. Skin moist, but rather too warm. The expectoration, which has been scanty and of a rusty color, is more copious and of a lighter hue. Pain in the side gone.

19th.—Patient continues to gain. Percussion gives a better sound. Scarcely any crepitation. All the symptoms better, but no appetite. All the food, taken for the last few days, has been a little gruel and toast water. Sores in the mouth better.

20th.—Patient better. Gave the tincture of lobelia and blood root, four times a day, in the quantity of half-a-teaspoonful. Ordered a bitter tonic.

21st.—Patient much better this morning,—is asking for something to eat. Wants to sit up. Directed to continue the drops and tonic and to give two teaspoonfuls of castor oil; but, she not liking to take oil, an infusion of senna and a little of the sweet tincture of rhubarb were given with good effect.

For the next six days, nothing of importance transpired. The little patient continued to gain,—so much so, that she was dressed and went about the room. All appeared to be right, except the sores in the mouth, which remained about the same; although all our standard remedies for canker sores had been used. About the 28th, I noticed, that the sores began to enlarge and assume a darker color, attended with an intolerable stench. Being convinced, that gangrene was about taking place, I made a thin paste of brewer's yeast and pulverized charcoal. This was stuffed into the right side of the mouth, where the ulcers were principally situated. A large poultice of slippery elm was also applied to the outside of the cheek, which was very much swollen; and tonic and cordial medicines were given to keep up the general strength, which was again beginning to fail. Tincture of myrrh and slippery elm, made into a paste, and various other articles, were introduced into the mouth. All appeared to have but little effect;—the yeast and charcoal seemed the most effectual. The whole of the interior of the right cheek now began to assume a brownish color, and, in a few days, commenced sloughing. The lower gum on the right side, also, began to slough, leaving the jaw bone completely bare. A small slough also took place on the corresponding gum of the left side. As the sloughing process advanced, the strength began to fail, until she became quite helpless. Applications of a stimulating and antiseptic nature, such as the tincture of myrrh, hot drops, yeast, charcoal, port wine, vinegar, and caustics, were perseveringly applied to the mouth, to promote the separation of the sloughs, while a large poultice of slippery elm and sometimes flax-seed was kept on the outside of the face to allay inflammation; and, at the same time, cordial and stimulant medicines were freely given, to keep up the general health. But, notwithstanding all that was done, the sloughing increased to a frightful extent,—so much so, that perforation of the cheek seemed to be inevitable.

July 5th.—The case assuming a graver aspect, I invited in Doct. J. W. Chapman; but, as he considered the case a hopeless one, he declined prescribing any thing new, merely remarking, that we had better persevere in the treatment that had been pursued.

There was now some talk, among the parents and friends, of placing the patient under the care of a physician of the old school; but, as she had already survived beyond their expectations, they concluded to let her remain in my hands. The treatment was, therefore, continued; and, in the course of a few days, the sloughing was arrested; but, to such an extent had it proceeded, that the right cheek was almost transparent, when the mouth was open. Granulation now commenced, and the cheeks began to fill up. The under jaw, from the symphysis to the angle on the right side, was left almost bare of flesh. A small portion was also in the same condition on the left side, leaving the whole face very much deformed. The mouth was now cleansed, a number of times a day, with mild acids, to promote exfoliation. The bone was gently moved every day; and, in consequence of this process and the action of the new bone, gradually forming, about the last of July, it was removed. The portion of bone, removed, extended from the angle of the right side to the symphysis,—that on the left was about three-fourths of an inch in length.

The face has been gradually improving in appearance up to the pres-

ent time. It now looks almost as well as ever, and no one, to look at it, would suppose, that such tremendous ravages had ever taken place. She is now in the enjoyment of good health.

J. JACKSON.

*Boston, July 6th, 1847.*

## SHIP FEVER.

DR. NEWTON :—*Dear Sir*,—Much excitement exists, in different parts of the country, in consequence of the recent introduction of a new disease ; a disease entirely different, in cause and symptoms, as the Allopathic physicians would have us believe, from any thing ever before heard of, and requiring a treatment or medication peculiar to itself. They, the Allopathists, have, in their wisdom, significantly christened it “SHIP FEVER.” I do not know why it should be called *ship* fever, rather than sloop, schooner, or brig fever, as it may have prevailed on board each of these vessels. It has been much easier to give this fever a name than to point out its characteristic symptoms, or proper mode of treatment ; and, in my intercourse with physicians who have obtained diplomas from the most popular medical schools, I have learned, that they universally find it easier naming a disease, than curing it. It appears, that ship fever has prevailed principally among very poor emigrants, who have not been able to obtain a sufficient amount of wholesome food to sustain the body in a healthy state. In consequence, therefore, of the small quantity and unhealthy quality of their food, debility is produced, so that the powers of nature are incompetent to expel the acrid humors generated in the system. Being confined, in this condition, to a vessel, when they had but little opportunity for exercise, and crowded into small apartments poorly ventilated, the secretions and exhalations have become acrid or poisonous, and so induce a diseased state of such a character as to produce, in a person coming into contact with them, who is already predisposed to disease, a similar diseased state.

I learn that there have been about 70 cases in the hospital in this city, but two of which have terminated fatally. The treatment has certainly been peculiar, consisting in the administration of alcohol and water, mainly, in very small doses. The patients being chargeable to the city, medicine more expensive could not be afforded ; as a matter of course, the most of the patients recovered. The disease has been much more fatal among Americans, who had influential friends interested in their cases. Nearly all of this class, who have taken the fever in this vicinity, have died of that, or of doctor's fever, or of some other disease equally mortal.

I was called to see the keeper of the hospital in this city, who had been engaged, for ten months before, in taking care of patients, that had what was called ship fever. I found him very weak, with a violent headache, pain in the back, pulse about 80, with other symptoms of common fever. I gave an emetic, with a laxative to move the bowels, as he objected to enemas, and continued the treatment, with small doses of lobe-

lia, scullcap, and pleurisy root, to produce and sustain a moderate perspiration. In about four days he became somewhat delirious, and objected to taking medicine; when, from necessity, I adopted the hydropathic treatment,—used cold water freely, externally and internally. In about twelve days he began to amend, and is now fast recovering. I think the usual Thomsonian treatment, thoroughly carried out, would cure nine cases in ten of ship fever, in half the time that this patient was sick. I do not often yield to the wishes of a patient, against my own judgment, so far as to administer an objectionable medicine, or omit an important one; but, in this case, by the solicitation of his friends, I continued to visit him, and prescribed a course as near correct as I could persuade him to follow.

I learn that the keeper of the poor-house, his wife, and some others of the family, at Cumberland, have died of a disease contracted by taking care of one or two emigrants who were sick there. The physician in attendance, Dr. Knight, died of the same disease. One physician has also died in this city, who has been attending at the city hospital.

Notwithstanding the addition of a new disease every year to a nosology so complicated as to be of but little practical utility, and the daily introduction of new poisons for medicines, the foundation principles of Thomson's system remain firm; and the time is not far distant, when the investigating and honest among the scientific will see its truth, and embrace it, and consent to learn, from those who listen to the voice of nature, truths in medical science that never entered the minds of learned professors, or were listened to by the candidates for medical honors.

*Providence, R. I., July 6, 1847.*

B. COLBY.

N. B. The Journal, in its enlarged form and new dress, will bear comparison with any medical paper in the United States; and I shall endeavor to do something more available for its support, than to wish it success.

B. C.

## BOTANIC MEDICAL CONVENTION.

Agreeably to previous announcement, the friends of Medical Reform, from the different States in New England and from New York, met in the Town Hall in Worcester, Mass., Wednesday, July 14, 1847.

A large delegation was found to be present,—some from each of the above mentioned States, except Vermont.

The Convention being called to order, Dr. C. Newton of Worcester, Mass., was chosen President, and Dr. John Webster of Providence, R. I., Secretary.

Dr. Cornell of Boston first offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*,—That, as members of this Convention, we have been much pleased with the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, and the New York Thomsonian, and hereby pledge ourselves to use our efforts to promote the circulation and extension of these papers, so long

as they shall advocate the theory and practice of medicine which they now do.

It was then *Voted*,—That a Committee, consisting of one from each of the States represented, be appointed by the Chair, to draft a set of resolutions for the consideration of the Convention. The following gentlemen were appointed:

Dr. Isaac Jacobs,	Maine,
" O. B. Warren,	New Hampshire,
" Ellsworth Burr,	Connecticut,
" John Webster,	Rhode Island,
" Oliver Cook,	New York,
" Charles C. Coffran,	Massachusetts.

After retiring for a few minutes this Committee reported, and their report was accepted. It was then,

*Voted* to adjourn to meet again at 1 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met according to adjournment,—the President in the chair. Dr. Newton was first called upon to give a history of the New England Botanico-Medical College, which he did to the satisfaction of all present. At the close of Dr. Newton's remarks, a spirited discussion arose on the importance of establishing, on a permanent basis, a Medical College to be located at Worcester, Mass. It was, then,

*Voted*,—That a Committee be chosen, consisting of one from each of the States represented, to draft a set of resolutions in reference to the establishment of said College.

<i>Chose</i> Dr. Oliver Cook, N. Y.,	} Committee.
" J. T. G. Pike, Mass.,	
" Bryant Morton, Me.,	
" I. J. Sperry, Conn.,	
" Orrin B. Warren, N. H.,	
" John Webster, R. I.,	

The Committee soon presented a set of resolutions for the consideration of the Convention.

It was then *Voted* to adjourn to 7 o'clock, P. M.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Met according to adjournment,—the President in the chair.

The resolutions were then taken up for consideration, and, after being altered and amended, were adopted as follows:

1st. *Resolved*,—That an Association shall be formed, in the six New England States and the State of New York, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Medical Institution, to be located at Worcester, Mass., to be denominated the Thomscian Botanic Medical College of New England and New York.

2nd. *Resolved*,—That any person paying the sum of ten dollars, when a charter shall be obtained, shall be a member of the said Association, and the monies so raised shall be applied to the support of the College.

3rd. *Resolved*,—That the Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, who shall be, *ex officio*, President of the Medical College,—a Vice President, a Corresponding and a Recording Secretary, a Trans-



urer, and ten other Trustees,—to be chosen as herein after named ; but all are to be members of said Association,—and a Board of Censors, consisting of seven, or one from each of the above-named States.

4th. *Resolved*,—That the duties of the President, Vice President, Secretaries, and Treasurer, shall be those generally appertaining to said offices.

5th. *Resolved*,—That the Trustees shall manage the immediate concerns of the College, shall appoint the Professors necessary to teach all the branches requisite to qualify the students for the practice of medicine upon the Thomsonian Botanic System, and shall, from their own body, appoint a Committee of Finance, to manage the fiscal concerns of the Association, shall direct in the paying out of all monies in the hands of the Treasurer, and shall report annually at the annual meeting of the Association.

6th. *Resolved*,—That the Annual Meeting of the Association, shall be held at Worcester, on the 1st Tuesday of September, at 12 o'clock, M.

7th. *Resolved*,—That the Officers of this Association shall be elected annually by ballot.

8th. *Resolved*,—That it shall be the duty of the Board of Censors to examine annually the students, who may have attended the regular course of studies in the College ; and, if they find them qualified, shall give them a certificate for general practice, with the concurrence of the President and Secretaries of the Association.

*Voted*,—That a Committee of three be appointed to draft a Constitution on the basis of the above resolutions.

Chose Dr. Calvin Newton, }  
       " Oliver Cook,        }  
       " I. J. Sperry,        } *Committee.*

*Voted*,—That a Committee of five be chosen to nominate a list of Officers of the Association.

Chose Dr. Calvin Newton,  
       " J. T. G. Pike,  
       " Oliver Cook,  
       " Bryant Morton,  
       " G. W. Churchill.

The Committee appointed as aforesaid, presented the following list of candidates for the offices to be filled ; and, on balloting, the individuals nominated were chosen as follows :

Dr. Calvin Newton, *President.*  
       " I. J. Sperry, *Vice President.*  
       " G. W. Churchill, *Corresponding Secretary.*  
       " A. R. Porter, *Recording Secretary.*  
       " J. A. Andrews, *Treasurer.*

Dr. Bryant Morton,	} <i>Additional Trustees.</i> {	Dr. John Webster,
" Oliver Cook,		" J. T. Gilman Pike,
" W. B. Stanton,		" Joseph Jackson,
" Ellsworth Burr,		" Orrin B. Warren,
" Isaac Jacobs,		" Gerry Ross,

Dr. A. M. Burton,	} <i>Censors.</i>
" Wm. M. Cornell,	
" Nathaniel Brooks,	
" Ebenezer Robinson,	
" John F. Jenison,	
" E. S. Plumb,	
" Benjamin Colby,	

*Voted*,—That each member of this Convention pay the sum of one dollar towards defraying the expenses of the meeting, and that the remainder go towards the support of the New England B. M. & S. Journal; whereupon 18 individuals came forward, and paid each his dollar.

*Voted*,—That the President be instructed to procure one or more agents to go throughout the several New England States and New York, and solicit contributions for the establishment of the College, &c.

*Voted*,—That, provided the agents do not obtain sufficient funds to pay their expenses, this Association will pay the same at the Annual Meeting in September.

*Voted*,—That the doings of this Convention be published in the N. E. B. M. & S. Journal, and the New York Thomsonian.

*Voted*, to adjourn, *sine die*.

JOHN WEBSTER, *Secretary*.

*From the Middletown Sentinel and Witness.*

## DEFENCE AGAINST ALLOPATHIC ABUSE.

CONCLUDED.

He next gives an extract from what he terms one of the "Botanic oracles," to show that Dr. Thomson was an unprincipled man, in obtaining a patent right, to secure him the benefit of his discoveries. When the public know, that the Botanic oracle, who made the remarks quoted, was one who undertook to make money by publishing a work taken from Dr. Thomson's discoveries, they will not wonder at his denunciations. The "humble pupil" says, he "trusts he has more charity for the deluded followers of Thomson's contemptible absurdity, than to believe they would sell patent rights to practice on the ills of suffering humanity." If Dr. Thomson erred in selling patent rights, to practice on the ills of humanity, he erred in respectable company. I could tell him of one of his medical brothers, within a few rods of his opponent's dwelling, who, since "steaming" has become so popular among the people, has secured a "patent right to practice" steam on the ills of suffering humanity, and is supported in his claims by many M. D's. Another, within a few minute's walk of the same place, has invented and patented an instrument for bone setting, which reduces fractures and dislocations, in such way as to almost supersede the necessity of having to send for the Sweets. The Students' "disgusting attendance on hospitals and *post mortem* examinations," can now be dispensed with. The inventor has spent most of his

time, for two or three years, in selling patent rights; and such are its wonder-working powers, that I have been informed he told a gentleman of the place, he could learn him in a few hours, so that he could set bones as well as he could himself. The inventors are men in good standing in the Medical Society, to which, for ought I know, the "humble pupil" belongs. I mention this, solely to show the public, that there are others who sell patent rights, as well as the "quandam benefactors of the human family,"—the Thomsonians.

He thinks me "ambiguous in my expressions, and mistaken in my reckoning;" and, after giving my text to the reader, in as unintelligible a manner as possible, he requests the "Editor to stick a pin, while he follows a little in the abstract." He then goes on to say, that "a knowledge of Surgery implies a knowledge of Anatomy." Wonderful! Can the reader find any statement which I made, that does not harmonize with his proposition. If he supposed that I wished to be understood, when I said a thorough knowledge of surgery was not considered indispensably necessary to the successful practice of medicine, that a general knowledge is not required of all, he is "mistaken in his reckoning." I do not think him so dull of apprehension, or so ignorant, as not to know, that a physician may be skilful in the cure of disease, and a poor surgical operator. A good surgical operator is not generally a good physician. I am willing, with all due reverence, to acknowledge that most of the knowledge which the Thomsonian Physicians have obtained of Anatomy and Surgery has been derived from others who have labored hard and long, to bring this branch to its present state of perfection, by which much suffering is prevented, and the skilful operator regarded as a benefactor to his kind; and I know no one who is not willing to allow this. While the practice of surgery is becoming more and more perfected every year, by which much suffering is prevented, and life prolonged in many instances, the practice of physic, as pursued by many of the regular physicians, at the present day, is wretchedly deficient; and I need not inform the public, that most of the suffering endured from surgical operations, is the result of ignorance, or the want of a correct knowledge of the most suitable remedies in the treatment of disease—unless the difficulty arises from accident on the part of the patient. How many readers are there, who have been personal witnesses to the sufferings of a loved one, or have beheld his sufferings terminate in death, through the ignorance of the surgical pretender?

I said, in my reply to Dr. Nye, that we had Medical Schools, where the system is learned by the student. The "humble pupil" says we "have no schools for the examination and study of nature's great handywork man,"—and then labors hard to make the public believe the "regular student" suffers almost the pains of purgatory, in witnessing "post mortem examinations and being subjected to the disgusting attendance on hospitals," &c. I am willing to allow him a good share of unwillingness on his part, that the public should be deceived by his opponent's "swollen bubble"; and I am not surprised that he should quote the sayings of ministers, their "calling holy;" but, when he denies that which has been advanced for truth, by his opponent, who, for aught he knows, may have some regard for truth and honesty, I am surprised that he should do it in such a cool, deliberate manner, and then excuse himself by saying, "he

cannot blame me for disbelieving, until I have stronger testimony than he has already given." I may be believed by some, when I say, the Thomsonians have, under their patronage, in the States, three Medical Schools: two of them have received charters from their respective States, and all are in successful operation, and as the "humble pupil" is so unwilling to believe me, and quite reluctant to believe others who do not happen to think like him, I will introduce the testimony of one of his "regular medical" brothers, to prove what I had intimated, that he was ignorant or uttered that which he knew to be false, when he said the Thomsonians had no Schools. He says of his visit to the Institution at Cincinnati; "for the first time in my life, I visited the College under the supervision of Dr. Curtis, and I must say, in all candor, I was most agreeably disappointed:—for I spent a very agreeable hour in listening to as good a lecture from the Professor of Obstetrics, as I ever heard in any of the old Medical Schools. I was much pleased to see the attention that was given to it, by a large class of students. From the appearance of the students, and the talents and science indicated by the Professors, I rejoice in the hope, that my fondest anticipations may yet be realized, and that I may live to see the day, when the practice may prevail throughout the length and breadth of our happy country." He then goes on to speak of the indiscriminate use of a certain article, used by the "regular physicians" of the present day; he says, "it has been used in such a manner, that the whole country has become a hospital, whose inmates present almost every possible variety of disease to which the human system can be subject." This may serve to show the public, why the "regular students" become so well acquainted with "post mortem examinations, and where all that is shocking to humanity is exposed." Well may Dr. Rush exclaim, "Dissections daily convince us of our ignorance of the seats of disease, and cause us to blush, at our prescriptions."

Some of the readers may suppose from his "talk" about hospitals and witnessing "all that is shocking in disease and revolting to humanity," that the M. D.'s had to witness all these disgusting sights, in order to obtain the distinguished title: but, if they will make the necessary inquiry, they will find, not one in twenty who are now in practice, ever saw any of these "shocking" sights which he describes, in the attendance on hospitals, &c. It is quite uncertain whether the bragger himself has ever witnessed so much as he describes, for "a bragger is sure to run."

He says, "If any of the Thomsonians know ought of the human system, they must have derived their knowledge from Galen, Hippocrates, Boerhave, Abernethy, Bell, Armstrong, Velpeau, Mott, Liebig, or Majendie." For one, I am willing to allow I have learned something of the "human system" of them; but when they themselves admit their great ignorance of the nature of disease, and the great uncertainty of their remedies, I claim the right of adopting a course of practice which has been tried, and found much more safe and certain, in assisting the "resources of nature" and restoring the sick to health. Dr. Majendie says, in one of his lectures, delivered in 1839, "I hesitate not to declare, no matter how sorely I shall wound our vanity, that so great is our ignorance of the real nature of the physiological disorder, called disease, that it would perhaps be better to do nothing, and resign the complaint we are called on to treat, to the resour-

ces of nature, than to act as we are frequently compelled to do, without knowing the why and wherefore of our conduct, and at the obvious risk of hastening the end of the patient. This is the testimony of one whom it has "fallen to my lot to know;" and, as the "humble pupil" has seen fit to present his name, among others, as one of the great luminaries of regular inconsistencies, I shall take the liberty to quote some of his language, as well as others, that others may judge of their confidence in their "powerful medicines," and the absurdities with which their system abounds.

Dr. Rush, years ago, compared the "regular system" to a "temple unroofed and cracked to the foundation;" and, from the efforts recently made, one would suppose some were fearful it was about to fall and bury them in its mighty rubbish. Let me tell the "humble pupil," that the time has gone by, when the mass used to worship idols or temples reared to esculapian exploits. The victims, which have been sacrificed on its bloody altar, have caused many to renounce its worship, and adopt a more safe and rational way; and, whether it be a "marvelous absurdity, or the phantom of a maddened and phrenzied brain," the people are renouncing it, notwithstanding the cry of "great is Diana of the Ephesians," and embracing a more safe and rational way.

He asks, "Where are the Thomsonians' boasted discoveries, and where are their wonderful cures?" I am much mistaken, if he does not find a ready answer, in the signs of the times, which indicate the onward march of a system which has made a mighty revolution in the minds of people, and threatens the downfall of a system which has "destroyed more lives than War, Pestilence, and Famine combined." It is not a vague and unsatisfying echo of "where" to him. He hears a bold and manful affirmative in his own neighborhood, from men who claim the right of acting according to the dictates of reason—as much so as that portion who prefer the "humble pupil," with his "powerful medicines."

He intimates, that those who practice with his knowledge of disease, and having such an infinite list of medicines at their command, are wonderfully successful in the cure of "malignant typhus, scarlatina, scrofula, tetanus, and hydrocephalus;"—that the "ignorant pretender may sometimes gain a transient notoriety in the long list of chronic ailments—with which the self-tortured hypochondriac imagines himself afflicted." Here his "cogent herbs" are powerless; and, though some may have recovered, (who have been given over to death by the "regular physician,") under his treatment, it is nothing but a chronic ailment with which the self-tortured hypochondriac imagined himself afflicted.

Had I space to allow it, I would introduce testimony, from many eminent physicians and medical writers, to prove that, in all the forms of disease mentioned by him, their remedies and mode of treatment are worse than powerless; and the sick would find it to their advantage, to leave the cure entirely to the resources of nature. At present, I will give the testimony of two who, probably, "have had as much opportunity to judge," and therefore are entitled to as much credit, as some others who know less. Professor Biglow, of Boston, says, "There is scarcely any treatment which has not been in vogue, in typhus fever; at one time, patients were bled and purged; at another, salivated; at a third, treated with an-

timony and similar remedies; but all of these modes of practice have fallen into disrepute. Nevertheless, when we are called to see a case, we must order a prescription, and, if the patient should fortunately recover let the physician look at the scores of bottles, and quantity of medicine, which have accumulated in the sick chamber,—this being the natural result of an almost daily change of remedies,—and, if he be a candid man, he will confess that there is a doubt, whether the remedies employed have been of any service whatever.”

Says Dr. Francis, of New York, when speaking of scarlatina, or scarlet fever, “However various may be the methods of cure in scarlet fever, adopted by different physicians, all admit the serious character of the disease, and its often fatal termination. Its fatality, as recorded in our annual bills of mortality, is truly alarming, and reflects but little credit on the skill of our most competent prescribers.”

I will give the testimony of another, to show the public the confidence they themselves have in their medicines, and the mode of treatment the public may expect, by employing them in hydrocephalus or dropsy of the brain. Dr. Ware, of Harvard University, says, “It is so generally fatal, that medical treatment is not thought to be of any avail.” “We are justified, in such cases, in trying experiments, until time shall develop a mode of cure.”

When the honest confessions of such men, who have ranked so high in the medical world, are made to condemn their own tried remedies as useless, and worse than useless, is it a wonder, that some should have the manliness and independence to shun the common beaten track, which leads to results so uncertain and disastrous to health and life? Will the public condemn the Thomsonian Physician, for practicing a course of treatment, the results of which, (even in the most incurable forms of disease which he has mentioned,) show an overwhelming amount in its favor? Will they not rather “throw their physic to the dogs,” and leave nature to her own resources, than submit to such a course of uncertainties and inconsistency? Is it kind or manly, to denounce all who pursue a course of treatment at variance with that pursued by the “regular physician,” when there is nothing to be hoped for, by their own confessions, and the result of their practice? I am inclined to think, however hard he may labor to convince the people that their ills were all the “imagination of the self-tortured hypochondriac”—or the Thomsonian that his course of treatment “is the phantom of a maddened and phrenzied brain,” none of the people will renounce it from any reasons which he has given, or the Thomsonian physician retire from his field of labor and abuse, because certain men wish to gain distinction by a course of boasting and mis-representation. That some should affect to despise Dr. Thomson and his system, is no matter of surprise to those who are endeavoring to carry out the grand principles which he has introduced, which are making such a revolution in the medical world, and which are destined, with the improvements of time and experience, to receive the universal approval of community. It has been the united effort of many, who were in danger of losing the confidence of the people, to misrepresent, and, if possible, prevent them from investigating the claims which this system has to their support. This is natural with the selfishness of

man; but must result in the final disapproval of a discerning public. That quackery exists out of the "regular medical profession," I do not deny;—its effects are too visible; but on whom does the responsibility rest? On the "regular physicians." It is the utter want of confidence in their skill, and the dangerous character of their remedies, which force many to prefer the nostrums under which the land is groaning;—they choose to spend their money for worthless trash, rather than submit to a "regular course" of treatment, and run the risk of losing their health, if not their life.

The Thomsonian system has spread with a rapidity before unknown in the history of medicine; and, though some slight errors may have existed in Dr. Thomson's theory and mode of treating disease, and some who have undertaken to practice, may have been unprincipled and ignorant, the public may know, that all systems calculated to benefit man, have had their days of infancy and imperfections. The Thomsonian system may become perfected with time, and the experience of those who test its claims to adoption and practice. I have confidence in the people, that they will not reject its claims, without a hearing. It is time the public made a thorough investigation. The health and happiness of many depend on the decision. If, after an investigation, you find it what it is represented to be by its sworn enemies, let the decision be given, which will cause those who have become its friends and supporters, to renounce it as being unworthy their confidence. Let a verdict be given which will consign it to the regions of infamy and forgetfulness.

The people of New England are proverbial for their knowledge in most matters which concern them, excepting a knowledge of the most effectual way of removing disease—the latter proposition is too true; and though it has been charged on them, by a class of men, who talk largely of knowledge themselves, and manifest such a desire to instruct the people in the right way of saving money, and preventing disease—these philanthropists, if called upon by any of the "dear people," to prescribe, give themselves the lie, by giving their prescriptions in a language the great mass are as ignorant of as they can well be; and, since the "regular" practice has been reduced to what is called a system, it has ever been the study of the practitioners, as well as medical writers, to throw such a mystery around it, as to prevent the people from knowing what they were obliged to swallow, and what they might expect from their remedies, for good or for evil. Let the people require of the physician, a prescription they can understand. This is their privilege, and what they should require of the physician.

I have to regret, that the public have waited so long, for an answer. The apology I have to make is, a press of business prevented a reply at an earlier time. I saw, in the *Sentinel & Witness* of last week, another article, from "the humble pupil," wherein he expresses regret, that I had not taken notice of him. How much he is worthy of notice, I leave the public to decide; but would inform him, that, though I pursue a course of practice unlike that which he conceives to be correct, I have quite a respectable portion of community, who have confidence in my skill, and the course of treatment which I practice. From these considerations, and a regard for my character, which I hold as sacred as most men, I

hope to be found ever ready, to defend that, the loss of which makes a man an outcast, and a pest to his kind.

In conclusion, I will introduce the testimony of Dr. Waterhouse, who was Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in Cambridge University, for a period of 27 years. He says, "In one thing, every thinking man must and will agree; for it admits of no dispute. It will be admitted as an axiom, namely—the Thomsonian practice has been diffused through New England between 15 and 20 years, (this was said 12 years ago,) and still maintains its credit; and every year its roots strike deeper, and its branches spread wider and wider. Now, make any man of due reflection believe, that such a practice could have spread so wide among such a discerning, inquisitive people, as we of New England certainly are, without our having discovered its *nothingness*—its worse than nothingness—its vain and nonsensical pretensions;—the thing is impossible. I rank Samuel Thomson among discoverers, and respect him as such. I confess I have learned many valuable things from his many experiments, and severe scrutiny into the nature, qualities, and medicinal virtues of our own native plants."

E. BURR.

Middletown, May 27, 1847.

### "LET US GO ON UNTO PERFECTION."

That essentially all our Botanico-Medical Works are quite imperfect in their design and their execution, every one is ready to admit. In the first place, they are intended rather for domestic than for professional use. They are constructed on the principle of containing *multum in parvo*,—a little of Theory and Practice, Materia Medica, Anatomy, Physiology, &c., but no one branch is treated of at any great length. They are valuable guides for those, who, in the absence of the physician, wish to do as well as they can for themselves and their friends; but the man who makes the healing art his profession wants more extended and elaborate works. Take, for instance, Theory and Practice alone. It is impossible to compress the desirable amount of information into any less compass than a volume of some six or seven hundred pages. The same is true of Materia Medica; and yet how limited are these departments in all our books! Other departments are suffering under similar deficiencies.

But our books generally are deficient not in design merely. There are many blemishes in their execution. In many instances, there are important subjects on which they do not treat at all. Take Worthy's Theory and Practice, as an example. So important, and various, and common a disease as erysipelas is not even mentioned. Indeed, for our part, of late, when we find ourselves in something of a "*fix*," and are anxious to obtain more definite information, we generally calculate beforehand, that, on applying to our books, the disease had in view will be found to be the very one which is passed over, without mention. Again, many of the descriptions given us are extremely imperfect. In Materia Medica, for example, Dr. John Thomson, under the head of Wild Let-



uce, gives the Botanic name, and a brief description of one article, *lactuca elongata*. He then goes on to describe the medical uses of the plant, and gives, in the main, if not exactly, the medical properties of the *pyrola rotundifolia*, another plant sometimes called wild lettuce. By the way, such mistakes, in our authors, show the importance of an acquaintance with the Botanic names and descriptions of plants. Without this acquaintance, it is impossible for one to run clear of errors.

Further, there are errors, which greatly mar the beauty of our Medical Works, though they do not lead directly to any thing wrong in practice. Such are the numerous grammatical and rhetorical errors occurring in the Works of Dr. Beach, as his using participles for verbs, verbs without a proper nominative, beginning a sentence, and leaving it incomplete, etc. Such, too, is a sad blunder respecting a quotation, said to be from "Aristotle, a very ancient writer," on pages 73 and 74 of the Dr.'s late work on Obstetrics. He there makes Aristotle speak of the *ancient* Romans. But Aristotle died about 323 years B. C., before the Romans had existed, as a nation, long enough to be called *ancient*. And then immediately follows, in the quotation, a remark concerning one of the fathers in the christian church, who flourished seven centuries after the time of the writer; that is, Aristotle is made to quote the sayings of a man who lived 700 years after him. Such blemishes, in any scientific Work, betray a sad deficiency in the author's literary education. Whatever amount of self-complacency these authors may feel at their distinguished position, for ourselves, we are often mortified exceedingly, that we have not, as far as we know, a single Botanico-Medical author, whose Works are not sadly tarnished in the ways here pointed out.

In view of facts like these, appears the importance of more extensive and complete Works' being prepared; and, for the benefit and honor of the profession, we hope that, from some quarter, we shall soon see such Works forthcoming. [Ed. Jour.]

---

## Southern Department.

---

### POISONS CANNOT BE MEDICINES.

In some remarks we made, a few weeks since, on the subject of Homœopathy, we expressed a regret that Hahnemann had not confined his prescriptions exclusively to harmless remedies; and, the more we read of the writings of this distinguished author, the more convinced are we, that his pre-conceived notions about poisons' acting as medicines, are entirely erroneous. Perhaps, his early education in Allopathy, which has so long led the world astray, by this deceptive motto "*ubi virus, ibi virtus*," could never be eradicated from his mind.

The following are some of Hahnemann's notions, which we consider to be pretty good Thomsonism, though we must come to rather different conclusions from those arrived at by this Author. "We have said, that

there exist many cases of disease which the *vis naturæ* (power of nature) is not able to resist, in which, consequently, it becomes necessary to summon the "*vis medicatorum*" (power of medicine) to aid life in its struggles. We have said, also, that the art of medicine, is the art of selecting that one which is suited to each case. The first step, in such an investigation, is to lay down this axiom, as a ground work, on which all knowledge, on the subject, must be built, That no medicament whatever possesses any mere curative virtues. Every one possesses the power of acting on the human organism, nor can that be called a medicine, which has not such a power; and, when that power is rightly applied, it becomes curative.

To the above we do not object; but when he deduces the following, we must demur, viz: "The power of creating disease, which a medicament possesses, is, when rightly administered, the power of healing disease;" and again, "Whoever then, would acquire a knowledge of the therapeutic virtues of any medicine, ought, as a matter of course, to commence by studying its pathogenetic properties, as it is the first branch of the study of medicine." Now we contend, that there is no necessity of using those remedies that will *produce disease*, and hence we have no need of seeking such knowledge, and we never shall see it, or know any thing about it, if we confine our remedies to harmless agents. We cannot give up that fundamental principle of our System, that the Physician is but the auxiliary of Nature, and that all our remedies should be so applied as to assist the "*vis medicatrix naturæ*," in her sanative efforts. We ask, in the name of reason, Why should a second disease be introduced into the system, in order to cure the first? That such a course may be followed by a restoration to health, we do not deny; especially, when the poison is administered in Homœopathic doses; for the power of nature alone, cures more complaints than all the medicines in the world. We conclude, therefore, that Allopathy, Antipathy, Homœopathy are all based on erroneous foundations, but we want a treatment which shall assist nature. You may call it *Thomsonpathy*, *Sanapathy*, *Naturapathy*, or any other *pathy*. The name is nothing,—we only contend for this *principle*, that we should use those agents only which act in harmony with the laws of life. (C.)

Macon, Ga. July, 1847.

## CORRECTION.

In our last paper, as our readers will recollect, we published an article, headed—The Vital Principle Reviewed,—professedly coming from the pen of our friend, Dr. E. Robinson, now of New Haven, Conn.—We published it out of request to Dr. R., though we were not altogether pleased with the character of the communication, and felt, and several times expressed our surprise, that such sentiments should come from such a source. We are happy in learning that Dr. R. is not the author of those remarks, though we are sorry, that any one should be so mean as to forge the name of another and attach it to a communication in this way. [Ed. Jour.]

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., AUGUST 16, 1847. No. 16.

---

Home Department.

---

THE VITAL PRINCIPLE—ONCE MORE.

I have noticed, Mr. Editor, the remarks of your correspondents in the Journal, concerning the question—"What is Life?" and am constrained to say, that they have both apparently lost sight of the subject, in their final answers to the inquiry.

In order to the proper elucidation of any proposition, it is primarily necessary to ascertain the precise point at issue. All ambiguous expressions should be removed, and the local definitions of words capable of more significations than one, should be clearly understood.

The word "Life" is one to which different meanings may be attached, according to the connection in which it is used. Thus the "life" of an *individual* may denote the *period* of his existence. Or it may be made to signify that mysterious and wonderful quintessence,—that incorporeal abstract something, commonly known by the name of life. Again, there are *distinct kinds* of life, as bodily, spiritual, and mental or intellectual. What the two latter are, it is, from their hidden and inconceivable nature, impossible satisfactorily to determine. All that men can do is to theorise; and even then they are unable to convince themselves that their speculations are correct. I propose, therefore, to consider the question "*What is organic life?*" and to reason only from philosophical data and established facts.

All substances in nature are either organic or inorganic. The first alone possesses life. "An organized body"—according to Dr. Combe, author of the *Constitution of Man*,—"is one which derives its existence

from a previously existing organized body, grows, attains maturity, decays, and dies." Bodies of this description are divided into two classes,—vegetables and animals. Vegetable existence is simply organic life without consciousness. Animal existence is organic life with consciousness of being, perception of external objects, sensibility to pain or pleasure, volition or will, desire, and power of locomotion.

Organic life is *caused, continued, and supported* by the circulation of the vital fluid within the organized body. This fluid is the sap of vegetables and the blood of animals.

Between the periods of birth and puberty, i. e. during the period of adolescence or growth of the animal body, the waste or decay of the body, which is constantly going on, is *less* than the supply of organic matter; consequently the body increases in size and stature, and the functions gradually develop themselves;—during the prime of life the decay and supply are *equal*, and the body remains, as it were, stationary;—from that period and until death, the decay is *greater* than the supply;—in consequence, as the vital juices are drained for the purposes of nutrition, the bones become hard, dry, and brittle, the muscles contract, the spinal marrow is exhausted—thus decreasing the stature; and, finally existence is terminated by death. The phenomena of vegetable life are essentially the same,—of course, somewhat modified, in consequence of the different organization of the two classes.

That the *blood* is the grand essential instrumentality in preserving life is obvious from the consideration, that all external aliment taken into the body must first be converted into that fluid, before it can subserve the purposes of nutrition. Air is necessary in supporting life, *only* in its *action on the blood*, which, by oxydation, it enables to supply the waste, decay, or slow internal combustion which continually takes place. And it is this constant chemical action within, which produces *animal heat* by the continual evolution of caloric. Hence, in fever, the body wastes too fast, thereby causing that unnatural heat which characterizes it. Inasmuch as decay or change, (for decomposition of bodies is simply the separation of its elements from their existing combination, and the formation of a new,) unceasingly goes on. Therefore, whatever hastens the decay of an organized body, as undue excitements, which, by promoting unnatural vital action cause proportionally great decay without recompense, shortens life, and, of course, hastens death; and, whatever retards decay, as sleep, moderate exercise, steady habits, an easy conscience, an untroubled mind, and moderation in animal indulgences, lengthens the periods of life, and retards the final hour of dissolution.

Another weighty and convincing argument in favor of supposing the blood or sap to be the most important and necessary agent in the preservation of life is, that, even when the organization is preserved complete and perfect, discontinuation of its circulation is attended with cessation of life, for the time being and until the circulation is restored, when life again commences. A familiar illustration of this is the hyemation of trees. The sap ceases to circulate, retires to the root, and remains during the winter. The tree, meanwhile, is apparently dead; and indeed we know, that the vital spark is not entirely extinguished, *only* by its subsequent restoration. But, on the return of the genial season of

Spring, the sap again commences circulation, animation is renewed, vegetation begins, and the tree is once more restored to life. The hybernation or entire sleep of certain animals, as the polar bear, is another case in point, although it is not certain, that the blood does not circulate *at all* at these periods. Life is likewise temporarily suspended in cases of drowning, hanging, and suffocation, where the patients have eventually recovered; and accounts exist, too numerous and too well authenticated to leave room for doubt, that toads and other reptiles, after confinement for unknown ages in solid rock, upon liberation, have regained life and animation, which had been suspended during their imprisonment. Many have been the theories of philosophers upon this singular natural phenomenon; but the following I conceive to come nearest the truth. Light, air, heat, and extrinsic aliment are necessary to the support of every organized being. Now, when these conditions are excluded, as in the case of the toad, circulation ceases and the creature is *dead*, until life is restored by these essentials on subsequent admittance.

The blood being, then, the great instrument by which the functions are kept in operation, and through which its constant waste is supplied, we conclude,—that *Life is that state of animated existence, produced and sustained by the circulation of the vital fluid within an organized body.*

Orono, Me., July 13th, 1847.

C. H. F.

## KILLED BY LOBELIA,

OR DIED OF MANIA POTU.

DR. C. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—I am called upon to acquaint the public with the facts concerning the death of Mr. Horatio Hall, who died at Broad Brook, July 3d, 1847. I was requested to see him on Wednesday, June 30,—found him in bed, laboring under the following symptoms:—high fever; a severe pain in the right side; quick and difficult respiration; entire loss of appetite; frequent coughing and raising a considerable quantity of a thick mucus, although expectoration was difficult; restless; eyes glassy and wild; pulse tremulous, feeble, intermittent, and about one hundred and twenty per minute; and a bad diarrhœa, which had been wearing him out for several days previous.

Treatment.—Gave sudorific and nerve teas for an hour or two, immersing the feet in weak ley; then administered an emetic, of brown lobelia, in three doses which operated favorably, and ordered the nerve tea to be continued with a little capsicum in the same. Gave a fever powder once in three or four hours, and half a tea-spoonful of rhubarb and anti-bilious powders, equal parts. Thursday, July 1st, found my patient in the kitchen. He said he felt better; his pulse was better, and he had some relish for food. Directed him to keep still in bed, and ordered the nerve tea, fever powders, and stomach pills to be given in six hours, dividing the time; composition and capsicum enough to maintain a moisture upon the surface, and a table-spoonful of cholera syrup with

a portion of brandy, once in four or five hours. As his diarrhœa had not abated in the least, I told his attendants that he must have good care, for he was not yet out of danger. In the afternoon, found him no better, but walking to and fro; his eyes very glassy, and he seemed to be in agitation and distress of mind. His countenance assumed a peculiar appearance, expressive of anxiety, alarm, and suspicion. Ordered a free use of *scutellaria*, *lateriflora* (scullcap) and *cypripedium pubescens* (valerian) tea through the night, with the above treatment. Friday, July 2d, found the patient sitting up, although he had hardly sufficient strength to support his tottering frame. He was partially deprived of his reason; talking incoherently by spells; expectoration copious; respiration and articulation difficult; other symptoms much as before, without any inclination to sleep. Continued the above treatment, with the addition of lobelia in small doses, not enough to produce nausea. In the afternoon, found the symptoms much worse; informed the family that he could live but a short time; respiration and expectoration worse and more excited. Ordered cough balsam to be given freely. Called again in the evening, found my patient raving, hearing and seeing all kinds of things; about all kinds of business, with great fear; sleep entirely departed, and surface hot and dry. Commenced giving the patient warm teas to produce perspiration and equalize circulation, which soon made him appear more comfortable.

We could do no more than continue the above treatment. Respiration failed gradually, until about two o'clock in the morning, when his spirit took its flight to God who gave it. A few minutes before he expired, when he was interrogated how he felt, he said he experienced no pain.

Now let it be remembered that this patient did not take three, two, or one emetic, nor did he complain of sickness at the stomach the day before he died, as has been scandalously reported by those that hear but do not investigate for themselves.

The above is a true statement of facts, to which I defy all contradiction.

Mr. Editor, I am sorry to say, that this man had never signed away his liberty, but appreciated it, until the last moment. I have thus given the particulars in this case, in order that those who are opposed to medical reform may agree in their reports; for each son of scandal has reported to suit himself.

Yours, &c.

*Broad Brook, Conn., July 21st, 1847.*

DAVID PEABODY.

## PROFESSOR TULLY ON LOBELIA.

[We ask those who are disposed to believe the bugbear stories told about lobelia, to read the following testimony of an eminent Old-school Physician, a Professor in the Medical Department of the College at New Haven, Conn. Ed. Jour.]

*New Haven Conn., Thursday, 22d March, 1838.*

Dear Sir,—Your letter of March 5th, reached New Haven after my departure for Albany, on an excursion from which I returned only yesterday. This fact, I trust, will excuse the delay in my reply.

I have no sort of knowledge of the newspaper notice which you mention, never having seen it, nor even heard of it before. It is true, however, that I have stated, in my public instruction, that *lobelia inflata* is entirely destitute of any *narcotic* or *cathartic* powers. This is, however, a negative position which is incapable of positive proof. If I were to assert that *cinchona* is not *narcotic*, I could not prove it positively. All I could say would be, that for twenty-seven years I have been in the habit of using it, in large quantities and small, and of witnessing its use by others—without a single indication of any *narcotic operation*. Just so is it with regard to *lobelia inflata*. I have now been in the habit of employing this article for twenty-seven years, and of witnessing its employment by others for the same length of time, and in large quantities, and for a long period, without the least trace of any *narcotic* effect. I have used the very best officinal tinctures, in the quantity of three fluid ounces in twenty-four hours, and for four and seven days in succession; and I have likewise given three large table-spoonfuls of it within half an hour, without the least indication of any *narcotic operation*. I have likewise given it in substance, and in other forms, and still without any degree of this operation. I have superintended experiments with it, made by young men, and always with the same results. I have known four or five tobacco pipes full of it smoked in immediate succession, and without any narcosis; and I have also known it given by enema, and with the same result. In addition to this, no species of the genus *lobelia* nor of the order *lobelia-ceæ* is known to possess a particle of narcotic power. Dr. Bigelow of Boston was the first person who ascribed narcotic powers to this agent; and this he first did in 1817, and not from his own observations, but from the general fact, that, in connection with its nauseating and emetic operation, it sometimes produces vertigo and nervous tremors; and that, when it nauseates powerfully without vomiting, and when it vomits excessively, it produces considerable prostration. After Dr. Bigelow first pronounced it *narcotic*, subsequent writers very speedily converted “*something as black as a crow into three black crows*,” and Dr. Ansel W. Ives, of New York, at last pronounced *lobelia inflata* to be a “*deadly narcotic*,” and that its action as an *emetic*, “*is secondary, or symptomatic of the primary impression upon the brain, like that caused by tobacco and other narcotic poisons*.” But all this is mere stuff and closet speculation, and does not contain a single truth. There is no probability that Dr. Ansel W. Ives ever used the article in his life.

The symptoms from which Dr. Bigelow inferred its *narcotic power*, are produced far more eminently by *tartrate of antimony and potassa*, and quite as often by *ipecacuanha*, as by *lobelia inflata*; and I have not only witnessed them from sea-sickness and sick-headache, but I have very often experienced them in my own person from those two affections.

As to the *cathartic* powers of this article, I have the same ground for a negative decision, as in regard to its *narcotic power*, with one exception only, viz: some other species of the genus are unquestionably *cathartic*. I have never been able to produce a *laxative*, or even *ecoprotic* [opening] effect with it; but I have occasionally, though not often, known it prove *coprostatic* [costive].

As an *emetic*, I am satisfied that it is as kind and as destitute of all



hazard, as the officinal *ipecacuanha*, though perhaps it may be somewhat more efficient. I have occasionally known it produce powerful nausea, without vomiting, and with considerable prostration; but not, by any means, as often as I have known *ipecacuanha* do this. I have a considerable number of professional friends who use it more than any other *emetic*, and, on the whole, consider it one of the very best agents of this class, in the whole *Materia Medica*, for a large number of cases of frequent occurrence.

But *lobelia inflata* possesses another power of much more value than its emetic power, and of much more value than would be in its *narcotic* power, if it possessed any. There is not, however, space in this sheet to treat of it; I can only say, that it is the exertion of this power, when *lobelia inflata* is used as an *emetic*, that gives it a superiority over all other *emetics* in common use, for the treatment of certain diseases.

The officinal tincture, carefully prepared, is the pharmaceutic form which I prefer. As an *emetic*, a table-spoonful is a medium dose for an adult of ordinary susceptibility. This quantity, however, will frequently fail of operating, if the patient is quietly in bed, in which case it may be necessary to repeat this dose after an interim of fifteen minutes. If the patient is up and moving about, a table-spoonful will usually vomit in ordinary cases. But there are instances in which a desert-spoonful is a sufficient emetic dose.

I am confident, (the old women's stories in the books to the contrary notwithstanding,) that *lobelia inflata* is a valuable, a safe, and a sufficiently gentle article of medicine; and I think the time will come, when it will be much more appreciated. Little, however, of its value can be specified within the compass of a single sheet of paper.

Be pleased to excuse the hurry and seeming carelessness of the preceding, for which I must plead the fatigue and indisposition of my very tedious journey.

I remain yours, Sir,

With much respect,

WILLIAM TULLY.

Dr. H. LEE, Middletown, Ct.

---

## REMARKS ON POISONS.

[The following is an extract from a Lecture delivered by us a short time since, before the Washington Temperance Society in this town. While speaking of intoxicating drinks, we thought proper to present some wholesome instructions in regard to other poisons. Ed. Jour.]

Here an important question arises, just how far we may, with propriety, use the article as a medicine; and this, of course, involves a consideration for the medical profession,—which is, to what extent, if any, the article may be used as a medicine, or as a solvent or menstruum in the preparation of medicines. On this subject, as on every other whether religious, political, scientific, or professional, I am inclined to be somewhat

*radical*, though, as I think, not *ultra*. I like consistency of action, and, with the hope of securing that, am very much in the habit of tracing effects to their causes. This is what I understand by being *radical*, or going to the *root* of a matter. *Ultraism*, on the contrary, consists in a wrong application of truths, or pushing local and limited considerations out of the sphere to which they belong. A rule of action may be founded in some law of our nature, and be a safe guide under all the circumstances for which it was designed; yet, when these circumstances are materially changed, the rule becomes inapplicable;—the principle, however, remains unaltered. To illustrate,—it is a general rule, that water will quench fire, and that substances drenched in water are safely protected against combustion; yet who does not know, that this general rule will not apply to the article of lime. Casks have become ignited, and buildings have been burnt, through the drenching influence of rain, which has unfortunately reached the contents of those casks, when they have been stored away for future use, or for sale. In this case nature's laws are not contradictory,—they are harmonious; but the rule is not of universal application,—it is adapted to circumstances which usually exist, it is true, but not always.

To apply these considerations to the subject before us, if alcohol is a poison, it ought never to be used to such an extent, as that its pernicious influence shall be appreciable. Most distilled and fermented liquors, as rum, gin, brandy, wine, strong beer, and the like, contain different ingredients, in connexion with alcohol, properly so called. These several ingredients have their peculiar medicinal properties, which, when properly applied, are beneficial in disease. As a matter of convenience, too, alcohol seems desirable in dissolving resins and gums, and in extracting those virtues of medicinal agents which are not yielded to water,—as well as in preventing fermentation and acidity on the part of syrups and other liquid preparations. But, whatever may be the desirableness or the convenience of alcoholic liquids in any of these cases, they certainly should be used, if used at all, in the most limited quantity consistent with the accomplishment of the object to be attained. And, when it so chances that the patient has been under the influence of a morbid and once ungovernable appetite, even the matter of convenience ought to yield at once to the consideration of the patient's danger, if he puts a particle to his lips.

And here I wish to make a discrimination which is too seldom made, not merely by men in general, but by physicians themselves. The discrimination is this. Alcoholic preparations may be medicinal; but just so far as they are poisonous, in consequence of the alcohol which they contain, they are injurious to the system. This I hold, not merely to be true, as a general rule, but to be a principle of universal application; and I challenge every class of society, professional or unprofessional, to controvert it. I maintain, that no agent, alcoholic or other, which is essentially poisonous, ought ever, to any important extent, to be introduced into the stomach. This position, some of you may not be aware, constitutes the sole peculiarity of my own professional practice. I contend that *quackery* is the same, whether practiced by diplomatized physicians or others; and it consists both in the use of valuable agents employed at

random, and more especially in the use of such as must necessarily do evil, instead of good, to the human system, or, in consequence of their compound character, do both evil and good, at the same time, as very many agents are wont to do. My position is this, that the same beneficent Being who has furnished us with fountains of pure water to drink, and vegetable and, if you please, animal food to eat, has also provided, as antidotes against disease, a competent number of agents which are innocuous in their character. I contend, that the maxim, The greater the poison, the greater the medicinal power, is fundamentally wrong, and that, on the other hand, the truth is, the greater the poison, the more is detracted from the healing power which may be combined with the poison in the medicinal preparation. To be consistent, I cannot reject the use of alcohol, as unsuited to the stomach, and yet apply to that viscus, as drink, food, or medicine, articles which are deleterious in the same way, either in a greater or a less degree. It is true, that many poisons produce their effect more clandestinely than alcohol. Their deadly influence is, in a great measure, silent and unobserved, even by the sufferer himself. On this account, however they should have no preference. That I may not seem to place my own authority alone against that of a considerable portion of the medical world, I will quote a few expressions from Dr. Alcott, whose scientific attainments and professional skill will not be called in question. In one of his Health Tracts, speaking of medical poisons, he says, "The weakest of them usually possesses power enough to redden and inflame the whole living membrane of the stomach and intestinal canal. What then must be the result, when the stronger ones are taken? The truth is, as has been found from numerous dissections, this lining membrane may not only be in a state of sub-inflammation without our being sensible of it, but it may also be spread over with eruptions and small ulcers, without causing any perceptible difference in our feelings, except perhaps a little more thirst. The medical man may, indeed, detect other symptoms of trouble within, in a reddened tongue, hot breath, and more frequent pulse." Again the same author, speaking of the effects of poisons in small doses, says, "They appear to accumulate in the system, and break forth in terrible consequences at a future period. This may seem unaccountable to many; but the fact is indisputable, whether it can be accounted for or not. The full effects of calomel, for example, especially when taken in small doses, as in Ching's worm lozenges, and in sundry other nostrums which are frequently advertised, are not always manifested, till months and years have elapsed. Thousands and millions of diseases, whose cause was not suspected, have been the legitimate fruits of seed sown long before, in the shape of lozenges, drops, cordials, pills, and conserves. Lead—white lead, and sugar of lead, in all their various forms, are well known to accumulate or remain in the system for years, and afterwards, when perhaps least suspected, break out and destroy the individual, or at least leave him miserable for life."

In what I have said I have shown, that, among poisons, there is a difference in their mode of operation. There is also a difference in the degree of injury which they produce; but really it seems to me, that, as temperance men, we are not consistent,—that is, we are not really "temperate

in all things," unless we take principles into view, and extend our practical efforts to every important class of poisons.

*From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.*

## BOTANIC REMEDIES EFFICACIOUS.

*Gardiner, July 8th, 1847.*

PROF. CURTIS,—My wife has been very sick, and to all appearance with the consumption. Since I came home, her symptoms were very bad indeed. I had not the least idea that she could possibly recover. She had a very bad cough, raised large quantities of matter from the lungs, that looked like peas, pain in her side, together with all the symptoms usually attending a person with a quick consumption, as our Allopathic brethren generally call it; but, by the energetic and persevering use of the Thomsonian or Botanic remedies, she has perfectly recovered her health.

One of my daughters was taken a few weeks since, with inflammatory rheumatism, a swelling of the joints in the upper and lower limbs, and very painful, with general fever, pulse hard and wiry, with a heavy coated tongue. Such cases have, here, under the fashionable treatment, required from six weeks to three months to get the patients about, and then they are invalids for life; but, by the use of lobelia internally, and cold water on the parts affected, we got her up and about the house in one week, the quickest that I ever knew, or ever cured myself. I think that it was partly owing to the cold wet bandages that I kept on the inflamed parts. I have, before this, given courses and kept the parts poulticed with emollient poultices put on cold, &c.; but, in this case, I gave her nothing but lobelia emetics without any stimulant (3 of them), and the last one protracted twenty-four hours, and kept large thick cotton bandages on the parts affected, changed and wet with cold water three or four times a day, which seemed to work like a charm. I never treated a case of the kind which I felt so well satisfied with, as I did with this; and I must say, that in such cases of inflammatory rheumatism, I like cold water much better than I do any kind of poultices. It is much cleaner and less trouble, and gives immediate relief and more speedy cure.

Your most ob't ser'vt,

BRYANT MORTON.

## CASE OF ENTERITIS.

BY JOB T. DICKENS, M. D.

PROF. NEWTON:—*Sir*,—Having heard some of your subscribers say, that they would like to see more reports of cases recorded in the "Journal," and remembering your request of physicians, that they would re-

port their cases occasionally, I send you the following, which, if you think it worthy of a place in your valuable paper, you are at liberty to publish.

July 11th, I was called to see Mr. Ober of this town, whom I found laboring under the following symptoms:—Acute sensibility over the whole region of the abdomen, which was so tender, that the least touch gave him the most excruciating pain. The inflammation seemed to extend to the kidneys and medulla spinalis, and evidently the peritoneum investing the abdominal muscles was inflamed, together with the intestines,—as the pain extended over the whole surface of the abdomen. Bowels constipated; skin dry; tongue red on the tip and edges, furred in the centre; thirst; pulse rather contracted, small, hard, and quicker than natural. Considering his other bad symptoms, the circulating system was not, comparatively, much disturbed. His breathing was hurried; abdomen tympanitic; urine suppressed with pain, and a faint sinking sensation; or, as the patient said, “a feeling of goneness.” The tympanitic state of the abdomen soon subsided under the relaxing influence of lobelia, &c.; when there was a mucous or slimy discharge, with the foul matter from the bowels; more especially after the swelling of the abdomen had entirely subsided, and after the free use of the syringe and laxatives.

The treatment consisted principally of diaphoretics, nervines, mucilages, third preparation, laxatives, and enemas, together with an external application to the abdomen of a strong decoction of hops; which soon relieved the urgent symptoms, and the patient being kept under the influence of the medicine was convalescent in a few days, and on a tonic treatment.

This form of disease was brought on by the patient's having been standing in the cold water for a considerable length of time, which produced a sudden check to the insensible perspiration, and destroyed the balance of the circulation, so that the waste matter, instead of passing off through the natural channels, concentrated to the abdominal viscera.

Inflammation, in its various forms, is of frequent occurrence. It is undoubtedly, therefore, incumbent upon physicians to endeavor to elucidate some of those circumstances in its history, which have not yet been explained. But, as it is well known, that the blood vessels are the agents by which most of those changes in an inflamed part are affected, it is quite clear, that a rational pathology of inflammation must rest on a previous knowledge of their healthy functions. Indeed, I can see no palliation for the presumption of those who administer remedies without a thorough knowledge of the various forms of disease, and of the human system, anatomically and physiologically considered. Without this knowledge, how can a physician make a thorough examination of the whole system, and learn the precise condition of every organ so as to be correct in his diagnosis and prognosis;—fix essentially on the indications to be fulfilled, and thereby enjoy the full confidence of his patient?

In my opinion, we can become properly initiated into our profession, only by a *real* knowledge of its principles, a personal acquaintance with disease, founded on our own patient investigation at the bed-side of the sick, and by a diligent examination of the effects of disease, as brought to light by cadaveric inspection. The practice of examining the dead, for

the purpose of ascertaining the seat and effect of disease, is absolutely necessary to complete those ideas which it is impossible for the best verbal descriptions perfectly to convey. It is also necessary, as the means of detecting that which yet remains to be wholly discovered or more fully elucidated. Some contend, that mere experience, without a knowledge of principles, is comparatively valueless. It may make a person acquainted with a number of isolated facts, but it can neither enable him to explain them nor make them available in the discovery of new truths. A person, with good judgment and a knowledge of principles, will succeed, in most cases, better than one who has experience merely, let it be ever so great. For instance, a man may have immense experience in mensuration of objects; he may have measured thousands of squares, triangles, and parallelograms; and yet, on meeting with one different from what he had previously seen, may find himself completely at fault; while another, with little or no experience but knowing the principles of geometry, will accomplish the task at once. So it is with all other sciences. Experience is of use in similar cases; but, by knowing the fundamental principles of our system, we see what course to pursue in every case, whether it be like what we have previously seen or not.

A thorough knowledge of principles would have a tendency to remove the cause of that general ridicule bestowed on physicians, for "shooting in the dark" or prescribing at random, as did those celebrated physicians in London, Doctors Mead and Sloane; who, in the time of it, were held up to public ridicule for making such blunders in diagnosis, &c., in the following lines:—

"Two able physicians as e'er prescribed physic,  
Were sent for in haste to repair down to Chyswick,  
Each took *my lord's water*, viewed, tasted, and smelt it,  
Then apply'd to his pulse, and immediately felt it.  
Quoth Mead, 'I'd let blood, as *his lordship's red water*  
Denotes an high fever,—and a bolus soon after.'  
'You are right, brother Mead,' and to this, added Sloane,  
'He that voided this water must needs have *the stone*;'—  
'You are out, (quoth the nurse,) and have both of you miss'd,  
For it is *not my lord's, but my lady's*, I insist."

But to return to the subject of inflammation. It is contended by some physiologists, that the substance of the body may be considered as a network, the meshes of which are filled with blood. These meshes are individually as minute as a hair, and are, therefore, called capillary vessels. The muscular parts of the system consist of a congeries of capillaries, and consequently these parts appear of a blood-red color. The structural portion which forms the tube through which this fluid is conveyed has the power of contracting, under certain circumstances, when the blood is repelled from the surface of the body by cold,—producing a corrugated state of the skin, called "goose skin." When the blood recedes from the surface, and is determined to the capillaries of the internal organs, as on the approach of fever, the sensation of cold is experienced, accompanied with a shivering which, in extreme cases, although rare, has progressed to such a degree as to destroy life, when the patient was extremely enfeebled by previous indisposition, old age, &c. Often-times, nature

labors with renewed energy to throw off this increased determination from the internal to the external capillaries. The superficial capillaries then become congested with arterial blood, producing the phenomena of inflammation, and, by its effects on parts possessed of exquisite sensibility, as the brain, viscera of the chest and abdomen, producing morbid impressions on the nerves, laborious respiration, headache, delirium, nausea, and vomiting.

When the capillaries of one organ are congested, to the inequality of others, accelerating the action of that organ, inflammation is said to have taken place. Inflammation, being once established, may either terminate by a gradual reflux of blood, or resolution, or may continue distending the structural capillaries, till, by its congested condition, it ruptures the structural fibres, and stagnation ensues, which terminates in decomposition or ulceration and sores, &c.

J. T. DICKINS.

*Newburyport, July 30, 1847.*

*From the Southern Medical Reformer.*

## REMARKS ON SALIVATION IN FEVER.

BY J. C. CROSS, M. D., PROFESSOR IN TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

Notwithstanding the accurate and familiarly known results of extensive experience, we see efforts constantly made in the treatment of fever, to produce the constitutional influence of mercury. This object is often kept in view from the commencement of the disease, and still more frequently it is aimed at, with a constancy and perseverance truly astonishing, by a very large body of physicians after it has resisted other and more rational systems of medication. The synchronous occurrence of salivation and an abatement of the symptoms of violence and intensity, with an ultimate and complete re-establishment of health, have led many to regard these events as standing towards each other in the relation of cause and effect. This being the case, it is not surprising the physician should look to the occurrence of tumid and sore gums and a copious flow of saliva, with a degree of solicitude corresponding with their fancied importance.

No topics have been more earnestly discussed than the nature and treatment of fever, and yet few points have been settled less to the satisfaction of the generality of physicians. It is not our design to attempt, at this time, to fathom its nature, or to point out and explain its proper treatment. We purpose, in these hasty remarks, merely to prove, if possible, how unwise and dangerous it is to rely on the constitutional influence of mercury as a curative means. Little as we design to do in this article, the remarks we shall make, we trust, will be found neither uninteresting nor unimportant. Much experience has satisfied us, that, in the milder forms of fever, salivation is unnecessary, being accompanied, as it certainly is, by many inconveniences, while it is not more successful, to say the most of it, than several other modes of treatment. In the

more malignant and concentrated forms, salivation cannot be produced; and, in view of this fact, if we even admit it to be useful in milder cases, there can be alleged no adequate reason for relying upon it in those that are intensely violent.

To determine whether or not in the treatment of fever we are justified in attempting to produce salivation, is a point of great practical interest; and, although experience should have long since removed every doubt on this subject, we see efforts daily made, that are certainly at war with experience. Apparently ignorant of the large body of recorded testimony against this practice, we see the lives of human beings daily risked upon the supposed efficacy of a mode of medication, which, if not absolutely pernicious, is, at least, wholly inefficient.

Let us examine the grounds on which this practice is predicated. It is said, that the mercurial and febrile actions are incompatible—that, when the former can be produced, the latter is superceded or subdued. To authorize an attempt to produce the constitutional effects of mercury, two things are indispensable. It must satisfactorily appear, that the actions, just referred to, are incompatible, and that the mercurial action can, in the generality of instances, be superinduced.—Now, I am prepared to say, from much personal observation, that neither of the propositions just stated can be sustained by an appeal to facts. I have seen several and heard of many cases of fever that proved fatal, after the full development of mercurial action. This is not uncommon either in Alabama or in Kentucky, as my personal experience enables me to testify, while the verbal reports of numerous very respectable physicians of Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, and other States, authorize me to assert that, throughout the Valley of the Mississippi, death is often observed to result, after the system had been fully saturated with the mineral. “It appears certain,” says Dr. Bancroft, “that the good effects of the mercurial treatment have been greatly exaggerated by persons who either were deceived, or were willing to deceive others; that many have died of the fever in question, although mercury, administered externally or internally, had produced a copious salivary discharge.” In his account of the Epidemic Fever which prevailed in Trinidad in 1817, Dr. John M’Cabe says: “That the action of mercury on the system does not supercede the action of fever, every medical officer must have seen, who has had charge of an hospital in the West Indies. There may be seen, frequently, patients dying of fever while under the influence of mercury; the fatal determination of the disease will then be observed to take place during any stage of the effects of this medicine, from a slight soreness to the more saturated stage of the pyalism.” Mr. George Biene, *Assistant Surgeon of his Majesty’s ship Antelope*, in a letter “*containing Observations on Yellow Fever*,” says, “I have seen many die of this disease (yellow fever), after the system had been effected and the gums very sore.” Dr. John E. Cooke, in his “*Essay on Epidemic Fevers*,” remarks: “I know that many consider a patient safe in this state, (pyalism,) but sad experience has convinced me, *long since*, that the opinion is erroneous.” By Dr. John W. Francis, it is stated on the authority of Drs. Hossack and Osborne, that even in cases of yellow fever, where salivation was effected, a fatal termination of the disease often followed. We learn from



Dr. Cartwright, that, "given in the first stage of the disease, (malignant fever,) mercurial preparations, in by far the majority of cases, produced no evident effect on the system, and, consequently, none on the disease. Sometimes, however, even in this stage, they produce pytalism, yet such pytalism had little or no effect in arresting its progress. He has seen as many patients die, whose mouths became sore early by one or two doses of calomel, as he ever saw recover." Authorities might be multiplied much farther to show that the action of mercury, even when effectually instituted, does not always have the effect to supercede the action of fever. They are, therefore, not incompatible—the latter continuing, with unabated impetuosity, to progress to a fatal termination, though the former be fully developed. Though we succeed in procuring what is most earnestly looked for, by many practitioners, we cannot always consider the patient rescued from danger.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## Southern Department.

### THE SUCCESS OF HOMŒOPATHY.

Whenever we have offered objections to the Homœopathic Practice, we are met by this argument, *The success shows its superiority*. We have lately read the "Organon," and will quote a few passages for our readers, so that they may see the secret of the *success* of these infinitesimal doctors.

In section 259, we read as follows: "Every thing which exercises a medicinal influence upon the patient, should be removed from his regimen and mode of life, in order that the effects of such minute doses may not be destroyed, overpowered, or disturbed, by any foreign stimulent." In sections 260 and 261, the author urges the importance of the same regimen; and, in a note, forbids "strongly seasoned viands and sauce, pastry, and ice cream, with aromatics, &c., old cheese or butter, stale meat, the flesh and fat of swine, geese, and ducks, &c. All excesses at the table are to be interdicted, even in the use of sugar and salt, as well as spiritous liquors, hot rooms, &c. The physician will also forbid a sedentary life in close rooms, passive exercise, sleeping too long after dinner, nocturnal occupations, uncleanliness, unnatural voluptuousness, &c., excessive mental and bodily labor," and so on. Now, who does not know that chronic complaints, in the main, are produced or greatly aggravated by the above indulgences, and that total abstinence will greatly improve or radically cure most of our chronic forms of disease? Yet we are taught, by the ingenious Hahnemann, that it is the *infinitesimal* doses which accomplish all the cures. We are fully convinced, that the wonderful cases which are so triumphantly adduced in the books and in the

Practice, are mainly affected by the regimen so strenuously insisted on.

Let the same number of patients, *without* the Homœopathic doses, be subjected to the same rigid scrutiny, and you will find as many remarkable cures, as when the medicine is used.

We are not surprised, at all, to see many of the Allopathic Practitioners embrace the Homœopathic System; for it is a fact, long since established, that *Nature* accomplishes more than poisonous medicines. Hence we find, that more patients recover under the System, which is tantamount to nothing, than under that, which hinders the powers of Nature, and retards her in her sanative efforts.

In proof of this, we quote from John Forbes, M. D., F. R. S., in an article in the British and Foreign Medical Review. He says: "Many years ago, when in charge of a large body of men in the public service, we had occasion to treat an epidemic diarrhœa of considerable violence, but not dangerous. Finding our patients recover as fast under one, as another of several methods of treatment adopted, we thought there would be no unpardonable "*lese majeste*," either to our royal master of London, or our divine master of Delos, in carrying our trials one step farther. Accordingly, we put half of our remaining patients on a course of orthodox physic, and half on homœopathic doses of flour in the shape of bread pills; and it puzzled us sadly to say which was the most successful treatment." We only regret, that Sir John Forbes and other Allopathic doctors have not carried these experiments farther: for they would find themselves as much "puzzled" in other forms of disease, as in the one specified.

The Academy of Medicine in Paris have also discovered, that Nature does more than *their* remedies. How much superior is the Botanic Practice, which acts as the auxiliary of Nature.

*Macon, Ga., Aug. 1847.*

(C.)

## SOUTHERN B. M. COLLEGE.

As we are continually in the reception of letters from different parts of the South, making inquiries respecting the S. B. M. College; and, as we do not feel able to answer all these inquiries by private letters, we will say to all the readers of the Journal, that we are not connected with the Faculty of the above College, and are ignorant of its arrangements. As we are often asked by others, the reasons for our resignation, we will simply state in short, that we could not be suited in such an organization of the Faculty, as we thought the best interests of the College demanded. We thus withdrew, in order that those who thought differently from us, might have an opportunity of carrying out those plans which they deemed expedient.

We have been connected with the College for the last *five* years, and it is encouraging to us to receive, as we are continually doing, from students and graduates of the Institution, so many testimonials of regard, as well as appreciation of our efforts in the cause of Medical Reform;—also, of the manner in which we have filled the chairs allotted to us.

We earnestly desire the prosperity of the College, and shall rejoice to see *all* the Faculty qualified to sustain the interests of the Institution.  
*Macon, Aug. 1847.*

I. M. COMINGS.

## TYPHOID FEVER.

DR. NEWTON:—*Sir*,—Permit me, although a stranger, to report rather a singular case, which, if considered worthy, may be published in your valuable Journal. During the winter past, I was called to visit a youth of some twelve or fourteen years of age, who had been confined to his bed for several days, with synochus, accompanied by marked typhoid gravior symptoms. Pulse quick and feeble; tongue thickly furred with a white coat; face flushed; dull pain in the head; appetite gone; and much torpor of the bowels. I commenced with stimulants to arouse and prepare the system for the action of an emetic. After thoroughly cleansing the stomach, gave gentle cathartic medicine, directed diaphoretics and astringents to be given every hour, with occasionally nauseating doses of lobelia inflata. Left the patient much relieved, with more favorable symptoms. The two following days was prevented by ill health, from attending the patient. The third day, found the symptoms had assumed a more typhoid gravior character; stupor and delirium at times; pupils of the eyes dilated; breathing hurried; twitching of the muscles; tongue and mouth black; teeth covered with black sordes; and pulse rapidly sinking.

Treatment:—First, stimulating anticeptic injections. Next, the vapor bath fifteen minutes, (which was as long as he could possibly bear,) but this did not cause the least moisture upon the surface. After this, gave an emetic, and our most powerful anticeptics, and placed hot steaming rocks constantly at his feet and sides. Pursued the above treatment daily for five successive days, under the most alarming symptoms. The tongue and mouth were black and ulcerated; teeth loose; gums destroyed; and pieces of flesh dropped from his mouth. A worse-salivated patient I never beheld. The cause of salivation was, in my humble opinion, the oft-repeated doses of calomel, given by an old-school quack, in previous attacks of disease, which had remained dormant in the system, until our powerful remedies aroused the deadly poison to action; the result of which was salivation and ulceration in the worst form.

Let me hear something from your able pen on this subject.

Near one week, was this patient, as it were, on the brink of the grave,—every person who saw him believing there was not the least possible chance for his recovery. But, by the most energetic treatment, with our pure and powerful Botanic remedies, we were enabled so to assist nature to overcome disease, that the youth's life was spared, and a speedy recovery to pristine health ensued.

Yours, respectfully,

*Gordon, Ga., May 17, 1847.*

K. A. MANLEY.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., SEPTEMBER 1, 1847. No. 17.

---

Home Department.

DR. COMFORT ON THOMSONISM.

*Providence, R. I., August 7, 1847.*

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—The inclosed communication from Dr. J. W. Comfort of Philadelphia is at your disposal. You can insert it in the Journal or not, as you think best. Dr. Comfort has, from his first conversion from regularism, pursued an undeviating course, and has done much, by his pen and practice, to render the Thomsonian system popular in Philadelphia. I know of no works that have been published on our system, which a young practitioner could follow, as text books, with more safety or certainty of success, than his. He was a graduate of a regular Medical College, and practised a number of years in accordance with the instructions he there received; but an investigation of Thomsonism biased his mind in its favor, and many years of constant practice have confirmed him in the belief expressed in his letter. I cannot agree with him in relation to the alcohol vapor bath, and will give my reasons in the next number.

Respectfully yours,

B. COLBY.

*Philadelphia, July 10th, 1847.*

DR. BENJAMIN COLBY:—*Dear Sir*,—Although personally unacquainted with you, I am prompted to address you from a feeling of approbation of the course you have pursued in relation to medical reformation. Your views and sentiments, as expressed in your letters published in the New England, B. M. & S. Journal, are congenial with my own; and it is gratifying to me to find a writer taking the honest, true stand that you have

done, in relation to Thomsonism. I have read your letters with more interest than I have any other matter that has appeared in the Journal.

Thomsonism is the name that should be applied, (in justice to the memory of its founder,) to that system of practice, which alone is worthy of the name of the true reformed practice of medicine. What man has ever done so much for mankind, in the way of alleviating physical suffering, as Samuel Thomson? And why is it, that the significant epithet Thomsonian is shunned, and that of *Botanic* substituted, which may, with as much propriety, be applied to the use of poisonous vegetable substances as to the use of those not poisonous? If a Thomsonian Practitioner were to come to Philadelphia, for instance, hailing as a Botanic Practitioner, or Botanic Reformer in medicine, if you please, how could the people tell by this, whether he was a Beachite, Eclectic, or Indian doctor; or whether he went upon his own hook, and, like those just mentioned, gave medicine in a *helter skelter* way, without regard to any general principles. Whereas, if he were a Thomsonian and openly avowed himself to be such, he would, of course, be employed only by those who had a partiality for the Thomsonian practice, and then there would be no deception. I do not pretend to say, that Dr. Thomson's Theory is clear of error; but the practice that he instituted, and the general principles and guide laid down by him for treating disease, are so nearly perfect, that they never can be much altered for the better. Improvements may be made in preparing the medicines;—for instance, some of them may be reduced to the form of an extract, and, in this way, they may be rendered less difficult of administration, without lessening their medical virtues, and to this there can be no reasonable objection.

Dr. Colby, I will inform you, that I employ the alcohol vapor bath as a substitute for the steam bath from water; and, after having employed it in my practice generally for some two years past, I am convinced, that, in the generality of cases, it does equally as well as the steam from water, and it is not more than one tenth part the labor to apply it. I administer this kind of bath in almost all cases that I am called to, and esteem it as one of the most beneficial of all the agents that can be employed to assist Nature to free the system of disease, and re-establish healthy action. I burn the alcohol in a tea-cup, filling the tea-cup about half full of alcohol, and set the cup in a bowl or a basin half full of cold water. This is set under the centre of a wooden-bottomed chair, and blankets are used to cover the patient, leaving the head out. If the heat be oppressive, I use freely of cold water on the face, and pour some down the neck, so as to run over the body. The chief benefit derived from steaming, is from caloric's being conveyed into the blood, and, in this way, carried to every part of the system. To avoid the liability to accident, from the covering's taking fire, I always use woolen to cover the patient, and to put on the chair for the patient to sit on, and pass it down in front of the chair half way to the floor, to protect the thighs from the heat which, but for this precaution, would be too great to be borne, when, at the same time, it would not be too high around the body.

I have also been using the extract of bayberry as a substitute for bayberry tea, and I am well satisfied with its effects. It constitutes one of my chief medicines. I use but few remedies. Cayenne, lobelia, bayberry,

composition, purified charcoal, and bitters constitute the most of the articles that I employ in practice. I give a great many emetics, and, in most instances, administer the alcohol vapor bath previously to giving emetics. This is the practice that has succeeded best with me, and I believe I shall continue to use the steam bath, and emetics as general remedies, until I find something better. I certainly shall never use cathartics again. But to return to the subject of the extract of bayberry. It requires to be made in glass or tin, as the tannin will combine with most metals and form a compound that would prove injurious. The extract is mixed with cayenne and formed into pills. I frequently prescribe from twenty-five to forty pills per day,—equal in strength to several doses of bayberry tea. I have long since become convinced that bayberry tea is a most invaluable article, but it is hard to take. But, when reduced to an extract, and formed into pills, it is very easy to convey into the stomach enough of the active principle to have a full effect. It is the best cleanser of the mucous membranes of the alimentary canal ever yet employed,—a point of great importance in the cure of disease of any form. Do you consider this mongrelism? I believe you will agree with me, that we are justified in making any alterations in preparing the medicines, provided we do not, by so doing, impair their virtues.

Yours, &c.,

J. W. COMFORT.

## ENCOURAGING.

DR. NEWTON :—*Dear Sir*,—Having occasion to write you on a matter of business, I embrace the opportunity to say a few words, by way of encouragement, in regard to the change which has taken place in the minds of the friends of an anti-poisoning system of medical practice, in this vicinity, in relation to the *Journal*, since the adoption of the present name, and since your reply to the attack of that wonderful man, Worcester Beach, M. D. Previous to this, people here could not, or did not fully understand your position.

The name *Botanic*, say the people, seems to be a little more congenial with our views of the propriety of things, than the empty and unmeaning sound "*Eclectic*,"—a name which, as it is at present understood by many, means every thing in general, and nothing in particular.

The *Journal* now, so far as I have been able to ascertain, meets the approbation of almost all who read it, and, is looked upon as an able and consistent advocate and defender of correct medical principles. The only objection now raised against it, is a want of variety. This objection, which I acknowledge has a great deal of truth in it, cannot be the fault of yourself, but belongs to those who can, and might, and ought to write for it. So many long articles upon pathology, and physiology are not interesting, except to practitioners. As the liberal and thinking portion of community are becoming more and more convinced, that disease is but a depression of the vital powers, and that poisoning, freezing, and starv-

ing are not *the* proper remedial agents to effect a cure, we have no reason, it seems to me, to suppose, that, it will not be well patronized.

The College, too, the friends of medical reform in New England, have long seen and felt the necessity of, under the immediate supervision of those who do not teach that calomel, opium, & co. are the proper agents to cure disease. By the liberality of another State, this sort of an Institution we have; and, as good luck *will* have it, it shall exist under a distinct charter, obtained from the "Cradle of Liberty" so much boasted of.

That our meeting at Worcester will have an effect to concentrate the hitherto diverging rays of Medical Reform, and give a new impetus to the cause, there can be but little reason to doubt. Whether it does or not, one thing is certain,—it has enabled us to raise our banner with an appropriate inscription upon it,—a name by which we shall be known from Beachites and other mongrels,—a name pointing out to us the "straight and narrow path," in which the car of Medical Reform will move rapidly onward, with force, and beauty, and power. It has enabled us to see before us an object to accomplish; and, to accomplish it, our souls must be on fire, in the high and arduous effort. We have a tremendous moneyed aristocracy in the field against us,—that class of men who, for the last fifty years, have left no means untried to limit the practice of medicine. But, sir, in the language of Washington and his compatriots of the Revolution, "we must hang like a cloud upon their rear, until we shall have gained our independence." Truth and victory are ours.

*South Weymouth, July 6, 1847.*

C. C.

*From the Southern Medical Reformer.*

## REMARKS ON SALIVATION IN FEVER.

BY J. C. CROSS, M. D., PROFESSOR IN TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

Besides the fact that confidence is thus much impaired in the curative power of mercurial salivation, much experience goes to show that, even when salivation and abatement in the symptoms occur about the same time, the former is not the cause of the latter, but the reverse. Though I practiced for several years in a region of country, where fevers were very prevalent, and where salivation was confided in by the generality of the physicians, I cannot find, by a reference to my case book, a single case of fever in which there was not an obvious decline in the violence of the disease for from three days to twelve hours, before the occurrence of undoubted indications of the constitutional action of the mineral. The pulse declined in frequency, the fever abated, and the secretions returned before salivation took place, and frequently so general was the improvement, that we ceased to desire it before it appeared. This is the result of the experience of many judicious practitioners. Mr. Shepherd, in his remarks "*On the Mercurial Treatment of Yellow Fever*," says, "Experience proves, that all attempts to excite the specific action of mercury in a system laboring under a high degree of fever, are perfectly unavail-

ing, until the fever be moderated by other means." The veteran Dr. Jackson, in his "Outlines of Fever," says, "It is a common observation, that, when salivation actually takes place in continued fevers, it seldom shows itself till the violence of the symptoms have evidently abated." Dr. McArthur, who enjoyed very extensive opportunities of observing and treating yellow fever in Barbadoes, states that, in the fevers of the crews of the Saint Lucia and of the Amelia, in 1804, the mercurial treatment was carried to the fullest extent. He also informs us, that "many cases of protracted fever have occurred at this hospital, where the mercurial plan was omitted some days before there was any sign of convalescence, but the mercurial action in the mouth did not appear until the fever evidently ceased." Dr. Rush, who will not be suspected of entertaining unreasonable prejudices against salivation, says, speaking of the yellow fever of 1793, that "mercury seldom salivated until the fever intermitted or declined," and also that he saw many cases, "in which there was no salivation, until the morbid action had ceased altogether in the blood vessels, by the solution of the fever." Even Dr. Johnson, whose ultraism of faith in the efficacy of salivation makes him look "with a kind of patient anxiety," for "the first symptoms of ptyalism," admits that "relief sometimes preceded, sometimes succeeded salivation."

If the order in which events take place is any evidence of the relation in which they usually stand towards each other, surely the abatement of the symptoms of fever should be regarded as the cause and not the consequence of salivation. Thus it appears that the mercurial action does not supersede, as is alledged, but succeeds the action of fever. In the contest between life and death, the agency of the mineral, if not prejudicial and dangerous, must be neutral, which, however, it is difficult either to imagine or believe. If it were true, that the constitutional action of mercury superseded or destroyed the action of fever, it is manifest that it would be impossible for an individual fully under its characteristic effects to experience an attack or a relapse of fever. This, however, does not accord with my experience. In two instances, at least, which occurred under my observation, ptyalism afforded not the least protection. One individual, laboring under syphilis, who had sore gums for nearly a month, suffered from quite a severe attack of bilious fever. Another salivated for chronic hepatitis, nearly lost his life from the same cause. In the article from which we have already quoted, it is said by Dr. McCabe, that he has "seen persons using mercury for the cure of other diseases; and, while ptyalism was present, attacked with fever and die of it." After stating, that salivation does not take place until the fever has ceased, Dr. McArthur informs us, that, "when the mouth had been made sore by the mercury exhibited, the patients have had a relapse, and during one night the soreness of the mouth entirely disappeared." It is but fair to state, that Dr. James Johnson expresses great confidence in the preventive influence of mercurial action, and has appealed to a number of facts which have occurred under his personal observation, in support of his opinion. These facts, however, are altogether of a negative character, and can have but little weight in invalidation of the conclusion deducible from those to which we have referred.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]



## COLD WATER IN CROUP.

The following article, by our friend Dr. Trall of this city, on that dangerous disease the croup, was at one time published in the *New-York Sun*. It well deserves a place in our Journal. [*Water-Cure Journal*.]

M. Y. BEACH, Esq.—Having observed in the *Sun* a statement, that you had received a recipe for curing this fatal malady with cold water, &c., in which you say you would like to hear of "some well authenticated cases," I am induced to make you this communication; believing, as I do, that, if the practice above intimated could be generally understood and faithfully carried out, it would very materially lessen the havoc made by this fell destroyer among our juvenile population.

The following cases are well authenticated.—Being in Boston, Mass., in March 1841, two cases had just been published in one of the daily papers, of which I took the following note at the time. Mr. Allen of Elliot st. states, that a son of his, about three years of age, had previously been the subject of two severe attacks of croup. In each case a physician was immediately called, who administered the usual course of emetics, expectorants, paregorics, &c., and the child recovered, not however without a serious febrile or inflammatory affection for nearly a week, the result, as Mr. Allen says, of either the disease or the treatment. Upon the third attack, having incidentally heard of this plan he adopted it; and very speedily and perfectly removed the disease, no unpleasant consequences following.

The other case which occurred soon after in the same family is given in detail. This child was attacked very suddenly in the night, with an alarming cough, hoarseness, singing sound in the trachea, difficult and suffocating breathing, &c. He immediately bathed the whole body in cold water, and applied cold wet napkins of six or eight folds around the throat. The breathing soon became more free and the speech relieved. After this, the whole body was rubbed dry with a flannel cloth, until a warm perspirable action in the skin was produced;—the wet cloths being still continued around the neck, until the local symptoms were entirely relieved. The next day this child was much better than any previous case had been, so soon after the attack.

About this time, a case was also published that occurred in Rochester, N. Y., and which was as promptly cured in precisely the same way. I have also heard of several other cases, in different sections of our country, thus successfully treated, within the last three or four years, the particulars of which I cannot now recall to mind. I have myself lately treated various inflammatory affections of the throat, lungs, and windpipe, closely simulating croup, in pathological character, with bathing, frictions, and cold wet local applications, and always with results far more satisfactory than I have seen from any other treatment.

Sir Charles Scudamore, (well known in the medical world,) in speaking of the effects of the "water cure" at Graffenberg, says, "I witnessed two cases of incipient inflammation of the lungs, with much inflammatory affection of the throat, and of the mucous membrane of the trachea, (the seat of croup,) promptly and successfully treated by the water-cure processes."

Turning our attention then from the facts to the philosophy of the subject, what is there improbable or unreasonable about the practice? Certainly nothing but what originates from the absurd vagaries of medical theories. There is nothing about this matter very difficult to understand, even by the unprofessional, when rescued from the fog of learning which surrounds it. The disease, croup, consists essentially in an inflammation of the mucous membrane of the upper portion of the trachea or windpipe, which inflammation is characterised by a peculiar secretion of a thick, sticky, tenacious, glairy fluid. This secretion, becoming dry by the evaporation of its watery particles, concretes into a membranous adhesion, on the inner surface of the windpipe, and thus, closing up the opening or glottis, causes death by suffocation. The heat attendant on the local inflammation, of course, favors the drying and hardening of this fluid into the obstructing membrane. Now it is perfectly clear, that, if this secretion can be checked, before it has become formed into this preternatural membrane, and impacted immovably upon the mucous surface, the secreted matter already formed will be easily thrown off and the disease cured. Now what else could the untrammelled exercise of common sense suggest to abstract the morbid heat, constrict and close up the relaxed vessels which were pouring out this morbid secretion, and thus arrest the disease at once, but the application of cold water to the throat; and, if there was heat and fever all over the body, to the whole surface also? As soon as local relief is obtained, and the general heat subdued, friction is applied to the whole body to create warmth and perspiration, while the local cold application is continued to the throat, until all danger of relapse is past. The propriety of this management is most obvious. It is to divert the circulating fluids from their determination to the diseased point, to the whole surface of the body, while the congested and engorged vessels of the inflamed surface are emptying themselves, and recovering their proper tone and dimensions. I conclude by expressing the opinion, that this practice is as much more rational in philosophy than that of bleeding, blistering, warm fomentations to the throat, &c., as it has been more successful in its results.

R. T. TRALL, M. D.

New York, Nov., 1844.

and Hydropathist.

## OLD-SCHOOL TESTIMONY AGAINST POISONS.

Professor Chapman of Philadelphia vividly portrays the deleterious effects of mercury or calomel, and, I wish all to hear what he says in regard to it, as he is one of the brightest ornaments of the Medical Profession. He remarks, "If you could see what I almost daily see, in my private practice, persons from the South, in the very last stage of a miserable existence, emaciated in many places, the nose half gone, with rotten jaws, and ulcerated throats, with breaths more pestiferous than the poisonous Bohon Upas, with limbs racked with the pains of inquisitions, minds as imbecile as the puling babe, a grievous burthen to themselves, and a disgusting spectacle to the world,—you would exclaim, as I have often done,

O the lamentable ignorance which dictates the use (as medicine) of that noxious drug calomel! It is a disgraceful reproach to the profession of medicine—it is *quackery*! unwarrantable, murderous quackery. What merit do physicians flatter themselves they possess by being able to salivate a patient? Cannot the veriest fool in Christendom give calomel and salivate? But I will ask another question. Who is there that can stop the career of calomel, when once it has taken the reins into its own possession? He who resigns the fate of his patient to calomel is a vile enemy to the sick; and, if he has a tolerable practice, will, in a single season, lay the foundation for a good business for life; for he will ever afterwards have enough to do to stop the mercurial breaches in the constitutions of his dilapidated patients. He has thrown himself in close contact with death, and will have to fight him, at arm's length, as long as one of his patients maintains a miserable existence." Dr. Reece, too, in speaking of calomel says, "We know not whether we have most reason to hail the discovery of mercury as a blessing, or regard it as a curse; since *the diseases it creates are as numerous as those which it cures.*" The same might be truly said, of tartar, emetic, opium, prussic acid, digitalis, and nitre. It matters not whether poisons are introduced into the stomach *by a scientific hand*, or inhaled or taken by accident. In both cases they have a like effect.

A REFORMER.

### SCIENTIFIC AND ECLECTIC MEDICAL INSTITUTE OF VIRGINIA.

It affords us pleasure to learn, that the Trustees and Faculty of this newly incorporated Institution have resolved to adhere strictly to the *no-poison* system of medicine. We are obliged to them for the confidence which they still seem inclined to repose in ourselves, and for the invitation which, since the resignation of Dr. Beach, they have politely extended to us. Unable as we are to afford them the direct assistance which they have solicited, we are glad to learn, that they have filled the chair of Principles and Practice of Medicine by the election of I. M. Comings, M. D., our associate in teaching, in the Botanico-Medical College in this place, and late Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, in the Southern Botanico Medical College, at Macon, Georgia. Dr. Comings is a man of talents, and known to be a rigid adherent to the System of Practice which we advocate; and the position which he is to occupy will, of itself, be a sufficient guarantee, that the young men who resort to the Virginia Institute for instruction will be led into the true principles of the healing art, and will be thoroughly disciplined for the duties of their profession. A letter lately received from one of the Trustees and Faculty assures us, that they are now thoroughly purged from *mongrelism*, and are determined uncompromisingly to maintain what we and Botanics generally in New England regard as the truth. A reference to some changes, in the notice of this Institute, made in the present number of the Journal, will show distinctly the principles which are to be inculcated.—[Ed. Jour.]

*From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.*

## CALOMEL.

DR. CURTIS :—*Dear Sir*,—I feel so deeply interested in the success of the Botanical cause, that, although pressed with the business of my own occupation, I must occasionally trouble you with a communication. Indeed, I feel that the good of my fellow men demands this much ; and knowing this to be the principal way that I can contribute any thing to this good cause, I do it cheerfully, whenever it is in my power.

You are aware, that it is a very general opinion, that a *dying witness* ought to be regarded. This opinion is, at least, correct in part. If the witness has had a fair opportunity to *know the truth* of the things concerning which he testifies, we may expect he will be candid enough, in the immediate expectation of death, to *tell the truth*. In the case to which I invite attention, at present, the witness had a full opportunity to know the truth, and the testimony he has left is of the most invincible character.

The witness has been an Old-School physician of much respectability, some twenty years, in one of our neighbouring towns. I am credibly informed, that, for several years, he has occasionally been known to use the Botanic medicines, and that, during this time, he has curtailed the use of that deadly poison, called *calomel*. Some four weeks since, he was taken with that new form of fever, sometimes called *lung fever*. He apprised his friends, at the commencement, that he would take no *calomel*. This resolution he maintained to the last, although persuaded warmly, by many friends and several of the most noted physicians in the country, to take it. The proper remedies were not, however, administered ; and, in some ten days from the time he was taken, he expired.

Now, if a man who has been almost daily administering *calomel* for twenty years, who is dangerously sick, and needing medicine, positively refuses to take it, and dies sooner than take it, should not those less acquainted with it, have a care how they swallow it down, although administered by some one called *Doctor* ? I will give the name and location of the above case, if called for.

This is not merely an isolated case, but the country contains many such cases ; yet we will not attempt to report another at present. And, notwithstanding the innumerable hosts daily being hurried into eternity, raving and distracted, under the influence of this horrid *drug*,—the teeth of others falling out of their heads, while it has eaten clean through the throats and cheeks of others, as almost every county can testify ; yet, if some ignorant fellow should have attempted to use the Botanic medicines, and lose a single case, it is narrated from Dan to Beersheba, that a *Steamer has killed his patient*, and it is soon manufactured into an irrefutable argument against the whole Botanic System. But, on the other hand, sixteen or eighteen children may be systematically prepared for *laying out*, in a few weeks, in one little country village, as in this place, last summer, with the flux ; and a goodly number more, in a few days, with scarlet fever, may, in the same learned and licenced manner, be consigned to a similar fate, as in this place last winter, without the Doctors or the System's ever being suspected. Such is the perversity of poor human nature, when biassed in a wrong direction.

Now sir, it appears to me, there is a plan that would put an end to all these misrepresentations, if the Doctors of both schools would agree to it.

Each school claims for its system the greatest success, and consequently contends, that the other ought to be put down. Well, it may be known, to a mathematical demonstration, which of the parties is the more successful. Let some gentleman publish a journal for the physicians of a certain district of country, and let each one report the number of his patients, the number of visits to each patient, and the number lost, and let the editor exhibit the whole to public view. Require the names of the patients to be given, that any false reports may be detected. Those physicians who would refuse to go into such an arrangement, might all be published as refusing, and leave every man to draw his own conclusions as to the reasons of their refusal.

It is true, the people might make out statistics for themselves that would partially serve this purpose ; but they never think of it in thousands of instances, and, if they could take up a paper and see at a single glance of the eye, that some physicians are in the habit of making ten, fifteen, and twenty visits in a common case of fever, while others make two, and three, and four answer the purpose, and that some lose ten times as many, in proportion to the whole number visited, as others, *right* would soon prevail over *might*.

Doctor, can you set something of this kind in motion? You can, if any body can, and it does appear to me, this would enlighten the public on the subject, sooner than any thing that could be done.

Wishing you great success in all your laudable undertakings, as ever,

I remain yours,

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

---

## OUR MEDICAL COLLEGE.

We are happy in announcing to our friends the cheering prospects which we have, even at this early period, in regard to the next Class. By letters addressed to us and information otherwise obtained, we have reason to expect, that from fifty to one hundred will attend the Course, commencing on the first Thursday in March next. Since the close of the last Course, considerable additions have already been made to the anatomical apparatus of the College, and the services of an agent are now secured, who will make it a prominent part of his business, from the present time till the opening of the Term, to collect funds to be appropriated in aid of the Anatomical and Chemical Departments, and of the Library.

For supplying existing vacancies in the Faculty, preliminary measures have already been taken; and, during the present month, the Board having the immediate supervision of the general interests of the College will hold a meeting to make the proper appointments. The Faculty will consist of four or more men of the first order of talents in their several departments. We hope, therefore, and expect, that those young men who shall be with us, the next Term, as students, will have their anticipations

of advantages fully realized. We will not say, with the chancellor of a sister Institution at the West, "Of one thing we are sure, that the student will obtain no where else an equivalent for the instructions he may receive here, the boast of some that they teach all that is valuable in the Botanical Schools to the contrary notwithstanding." Our organ of self-esteem is not quite large enough to induce so much self-adulation; but one thing we will say, The expenses at the Medical College here are reasonable; and, as to the character of the instructions to be given the next Term, we shall all do *the best we can*, and hope to come as near to our friends of other Colleges, as the nature of the case will admit. If we fail, it will not be for want of ambition and effort on our part. How many young men will join the *fifty* already expected, and thereby give practical evidence of their confidence in ourselves, and interest in our operations? [Ed. Jour.]

*From the Journal of Health.*

## ANTIQUITY OF BATHING.

If the custom of bathing be not coeval with the world, its origin may at least date from a very early epoch. The means which it furnished of purification and invigoration seem to have been first adopted by the inhabitants of middle Asia, placed, as they were, under a sultry clime.

The people of the first ages immersed themselves most frequently in rivers or in the sea; and, accordingly, we are told of the daughter of Pharaoh bathing in the Nile, of Nausicaa and her companions, as also Agenor, bathing in a river, and of the Amazons refreshing themselves in the waters of Thermodon. The Greeks plunged their tender offspring into cold torrents,—and Moschus and Theocritus made Europa bathe in the Anaurus, and the Spartan girls in the Eurotas. Domestic baths, suggested by the wants or the conveniences of life, were not unknown at very early periods. Diomedes and Ulysses are spoken of as making use of such, after they had washed in the sea—Andromache prepared warm water for Hector, who had just returned from battle—and Penelope, to banish sorrow, called in the aid of unctions and baths. Minerva, at Thermopylæ, is feigned to have imparted, by such means, vigor to the wearied limbs of Hercules; and, in place of other gifts, Vulcan offered him warm baths. Pindar praises the warm bathings of the nymphs,—and Homer himself, who ranked baths among the innocent pleasures of life, not only makes mention of a hot and vaporous spring adjoining a cold one, but even describes to us the baths which, by common tradition, were situated near the Scamander, in the vicinity of Troy.

Of nearly equal celebrity were the baths of the Assyrians, Medes, and Persians;—and to such a pitch of grandeur and improvement were they carried by this last people, that Alexander himself was astonished at the luxury and magnificence of those of Darius, though accustomed to the voluptuous ones of Greece and Macedon. We need here but allude to the natural warm baths of Bithynia and Mytilene, mentioned by Pliny, and to those of the Etruscans, as among the most early and extensively known and resorted to.

## QUERY.

What constitutes justice towards an editor on the part of subscribers? Is it for more than one half of them to allow two-thirds of the year to pass away, without paying the price of their subscriptions?—especially, when he himself gets nothing for his services? Then who is to pay the printer, and other persons concerned in the publication? A *practical* and *substantial* answer, from some *five hundred* of our subscribers, is earnestly solicited, according to the *golden* or *bank-bill* rule. [Ed. Jour.]

☞ INTERESTING CO-OPERATION. ☞

We would remind our good friends, in one of the New England States, whose Convention we attended somewhere about the 12th of May last, that the encouragement which they gave us of procuring, forthwith, in their State, two or three hundred additional subscribers, has been so far realized, that we *already* want but *one hundred and ninety-nine* names to make out the smallest number mentioned; and, what is better, we have *all* the money,—*one whole dollar*,—in hand. This promises well, and we are grateful for the assistance, as it is *some* compensation for the extra expense of the Journal, in its enlarged form. The enlargement costs us *only from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars annually*; and, with so liberal aid from the interested, we hope to be able, another year, still further to improve the work. [Ed. Jour.]

## Southern Department.

### VIRGINIA SCIENTIFIC & ECLECTIC MEDICAL INSTITUTE.

We are pleased to learn, that this Institution has taken the right ground; and, although its chartered *name* may not suit our ultra Thomsonians, yet we perceive, from the Circular lately issued, the following expression, which is of the right stripe:—"The text-books recommended will be consulted eclectically, and with careful discrimination;—the fundamental doctrines taught, in this Institution, being those of Thomson;—that there is no necessity for employing *poisons of any kind* as remedial agents, and that the object, in exhibiting any remedy, should be to sustain, and not to depress the vital powers."

Dr. Beach, who had accepted the chair of Theory and Practice, and also the Presidency of the College, has resigned, and it is the determination of the Board, we believe, to inculcate the fundamental doctrines

made known by Dr. Samuel Thomson. We wish them God-speed in their praiseworthy efforts, and assure them, that, in proportion as they adhere to those sacred truths, made known by the rude farmer of New Hampshire, will be their success and prosperity.

*Macon, Ga., August, 1847.*

(C.)

## PROPOSED COURTESY OF THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE AT VIRGINIA.

[ Since the above communication from Dr. Comings was in type, we have received the following from the same source. We are gratified to learn, that the Dr. has accepted an appointment in the Virginia Institute. He will be a valuable accession to their Faculty; and, it our friends of that newly-incorporated College pursue the course which they have *now* marked out for themselves, they will doubtless succeed, and their Institution will be a rich blessing to the State in which it is located and the whole country. From our limited personal acquaintance with the members of the Faculty, we believe them to be able men; and, from the advantages afforded by their location, we should think their prospects, in regard to students, highly encouraging.

The objections raised against their chartered name are, to some extent, valid, on account of the fact, that the term *Eclectic* has been so extensively applied to designate those who adhere to the views of medical Practice adopted by Dr. Beach. But, for our part, we have *yet* seen no term, against which valid objections, of one kind or another, may not be raised. We are not created dictator in this matter; but, really, for ourselves, we would be glad, if the friends of the no-poison Practice throughout the country would designate it *Physo-medical*. *Physo* in Greek signifies nature, and *physo-medical* would signify natural-medical,—a term expressing exactly the Practice which we profess to adopt.

If our friends in Virginia will lead in this matter, we think those in New England and elsewhere will give their concurrence. To our mind, it seems evident, that the adoption of such a term as characterizing that Practice which rejects all poisons,—mineral, vegetable, and animal,—would much more fully harmonize the sectional feelings of the friends in the different States, than any other. It would be distinctive and expressive, as *no poison* can be *physo-medical*, or a *natural* and appropriate remedial agent. From the very import of the term, it cannot well be abused and misapplied; and, therefore, any who may choose to appropriate it, to their individual Practice, may be sure, that, if understood at all, it will be correctly understood. "To err is human." Hence we profess not to follow the teachings of any man exclusively. But nature never errs. She is, therefore, without qualification, a safe guide in all things; and our only business is to follow where she leads. What say you, friends, to this suggestion?

By a letter just received from a member of the Faculty of the Institution, we are officially informed of the vote which they have very courteously and harmoniously passed,—to graduate such of the students of the College at Worcester, as our Faculty may recommend to them as worthy. With kindnesses so liberally extended, by our friends from abroad, we think our College will live, despite the indifference and opposition of our own *wise* Legislators. Ed. Jour.]

We are pleased to inform the students who attended the Lectures during the last Session in the New England Botanico-Medical College, that we have made arrangements with the Trustees of the Virginia Medical Institute to secure in future the graduation of the students at Worcester,



and those also, who have already been examined for degrees, but have not yet received their diplomas. Our readers will observe by reference to the N. Eng. Med. Eclectic, page 302, that ample arrangements were made with the Southern Bot. Med. College to graduate our students; but, just before the examination of our Class, the Board of the College met, annulled their previous agreement, and refused to graduate our Class unless we would give them *one-half* of the graduating fees, instead of five dollars, as previously agreed.

We trust that this disregard of plighted faith, which our Georgia brethren have manifested, will be the last exhibition of avarice, which we shall see. Owing to the exigency of the case, we came near submitting to this most unjust demand; but the liberality of the Virginia College has relieved us from our difficulties. We are satisfied, that the Institute, is of the right stamp, and we have made such arrangements as will be honorable to both parties.

We have no fears of a disappointment in these arrangements with the Virginia Board; as we have more confidence in the honor and integrity of our friends in that State.

We have accepted the chair of Theory and Practice in the Virginia College, and our friends who are acquainted with us, know very well *our* orthodoxy. There are also two others of the Faculty, who have been members of the Southern Bot. Med. College. The students at Virginia, therefore, may be very sure, that they will have the fundamental doctrines of Thomson, as the basis of the instruction given.

We can but hope, that the Worcester and Virginia Institutions, will assist each other, and that our Georgia and South Carolina students, who are intending to go to more distant Colleges, will turn their attention to Petersburg, as nearer and much less expensive.

*Macon, Ga., August, 1847.*

(C.)

---

## HYDROPATHY.

We are quite a strong advocate for the Water Cure Practice, though we believe much of the success depends on the Hygienic course, which the advocates of this system insist on so strongly. The same remarks which we applied, in a former number, to the Homœopathic Practice are equally true in this; for you will find, that every practitioner of Hydro-  
 pathy requires the most punctilious abstinence from all stimulating fluids, simple diet, early hours for rising, and regular bodily exercise.

Now, when we remember how large a portion of invalids are diseased principally from a disregard of the above rules of health, we should think it strange indeed, if they did not recover, by the observance of these things.

But we would not place the Water Cure in the same category with the infinitesimal doses of Hahnemann; for we can explain the beneficial effects of the cold bath, on the same principles that we do the warm and vapor baths.

If we take a fever patient, for instance, of a strong and robust constitution, immerse him for a few moments in cold water, or wrap him for a longer time in a wet sheet, and then envelope in a blanket, we shall invariably produce profuse perspiration, and probably cure the fever. This effect is produced by cooling the cutaneous surface, and causing the blood to return to the internal organs, which enlivens and stimulates them to perform their functions, so that an equilibrium and the necessary reaction are produced, which restores the weakened organs to their normal state. Now, take another patient with the same form of disease, and administer some warm stimulating drinks, and, at the same time, apply the vapor bath. You warm and invigorate the internal organs by composition tea, and, at the same time, relax the cutaneous surface, and thus produce copious transpiration in the latter, as by the former process. The vapor bath is far superior to the cold, inasmuch as it can be administered in a great variety of cases, and to some weak patients to whom the cold water would prove injurious.

We claim, therefore, a preference for the Botanic Practice; and, if our physicians would insist as strictly on dietetics and other hygienic treatment as the Hydropathists, we should show a success even greater than we now enjoy.

The Hydropathic Practice is worthy the attention of every Botanic doctor, as very many of its principles are not only in perfect accordance with our fundamental doctrines, but fulfil the same indications in the curative process.

We have mentioned only one form of disease, in which is shown the beneficial effects of the Water Cure; but it is equally applicable, in a large variety of cases, when judiciously applied, in connection with our Botanic remedies.

The cold, warm, vapor, and medicated baths, are too much neglected by most of our practitioners. These various kinds of baths were recommended and extensively used by Dr. Thomson and his followers, long before the name of Priessnitz was known to us.

As it is quite laborious, and considerable time is necessary for the process, many of us try to substitute some other method rather than use either of the above baths; but, as there is nothing that can fulfil *all* the indications of a good bath, so it is difficult to get a substitute.

We are far from recommending the Hydropathic Practice, in all its minutiae; for we cannot think it is suited to *all* forms of complaints, and to all constitutions. We only recommend its judicious application in connection with our valuable Botanic remedies.

Macon, Ga., August, 1847.

(C.)

---

## GERMAN MEDICAL AUTHORS.

At the solicitation of a friend, as well as from a desire to find out the principles on which the Homœopathic Practice is founded, we have carefully perused the *Organon and Chronic Diseases* of Hahnemann, as well as Henderson and others on Homœopathy. We have read these authors

with great attention, with a desire to imbibe the "truth wherever found." We have examined them eclectically, and we are now prepared to advance an opinion somewhat understandingly. We have found many things to approve,—have learned much of diagnosis,—and have been pleased with the good reasons, and sound arguments against blood-letting, and depletion of every kind. In short, there are contained in these works very many valuable hints and much wholesome instruction to the medical practitioner. But, when these authors recommend the administration of poisons, even in Homœopathic doses, we must withhold our approval and give our solemn protest.

What Thomsonian is not pleased to hear Hahnemann utter the following? "So far from diminishing the primitive disease, the Allopathic Practice favors the universal ruin, by its pretended dissolvents, purgatives, blood-letting, cupping, leeching, &c. God be praised, the Homœopathic physician has dispensed with the necessity of employing those barbarous and homicidal contrivances. We never draw a single drop of blood, as we carefully avoid a process which weakens the patient, and is a sort of *direct process* against cure." [Chronic Diseases, page 177.]

We have been pleased to find, also, in these works, a notice of very many valuable vegetable remedies, harmless in their effects, and such as ought to be introduced into our common practice. Some of those we intend to describe in future.

The great body of the German physicians use a greater variety of vegetable remedies, than those of any other nation. Hence their Botanic knowledge is very extensive. It becomes us, therefore, to become acquainted with German literature and medicine, in order to increase our knowledge of the vegetable kingdom, and to multiply our remedial agents.

We mean to extend our inquiries into these German authors,—brighten up our school-boy knowledge of the German language, and try to draw forth something, that will be of value to the Thomsonian fraternity.

Macon, Ga., August, 1847.

(C.)

## IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

We noticed, some time since, in an English journal, that two very distinguished physicians had made the discovery, that "*tartar emetic acts occasionally as a poison, even in small doses, in the case of young children.*" How strange, that this has not been found out long ago! We have lately known two cases of the death of *adult men*, who were complaining a little, but were able to be about. Each took a dose of tartar emetic, and the physicians who were subsequently called in, gave, as their opinion, that inflammation of the stomach and bowels was caused by the emetic taken. We do not exaggerate when we say, that hundreds and perhaps thousands die annually in the United States, as victims to this virulent poison. How much superior is the harmless lobelia inflata?

Macon, Ga., August, 1847.

(C.)

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., SEPTEMBER 16, 1847. No. 18.

---

Home Department.

---

*From the Southern Medical Reformer.*

CASE OF SCIATICA OR RHEUMATISM OF THE HIP JOINT.

TREATED BY DRs. I. G. JONES AND T. V. MORROW.

Mr. J—R—, a respectable merchant of the village of Newark, Licking County, Ohio, came to Worthington in the latter part of May, 1831, for the purpose of availing himself of the advantages of a course of treatment according to the principles and practice pursued by the Reformed School of Medicine, which had but just got into active operation and was beginning to attract public attention.

In a letter making certain preliminary inquiries before he decided on coming here, the circumstances of his case are thus detailed. "I have been severely afflicted with a sciatica through my back and hips for more than two years, and am now almost a cripple, scarcely able to stand on my feet, with a great weakness across my back. I have been under the care of a physician of this place, (Newark,) who has salivated me three different times, blistered, and setoned; all to no effect; and I shall now have to resort to some other course, or remain a cripple for life."

Upon a careful examination of this patient we found he had the following symptoms, viz: a furred tongue, costiveness, dry skin, sick head-ache, cold feet, great weakness, and a dull heavy pain in the small of the back and hip, extending occasionally to the knee and ankle joints, greatly aggravated at the approach of a storm, and considerably at every change of the weather; great weakness and relaxation of the ligaments and muscles,

around the hip-joint of the affected side; considerable emaciation of the diseased limb; a sensation as if the head of the thigh bone would be dislocated upon the application of the slightest force, which, in connection with extreme weakness of the back and limb, made it necessary for him to use a cane to enable him to walk, which was effected with considerable difficulty; the appetite poor, stomach in a dyspeptic state, with most of the unpleasant symptoms consequent on that condition of this organ; a deficiency in the hepatic and renal secretions.

We commenced the treatment of this case by the administration of an emetic powder composed of equal parts of the *lobelia inflata* and ipecac, given in doses of one tea-spoonful every twenty minutes till it vomited freely, three or four times; this was given in a little warm water. A purgative was also given, composed of two parts of senna leaves powdered, one part of jalap, and two parts of cream tartar, in a dose of one table-spoonful mixed in a little syrup or warm water; the feet were soaked well every night before going to bed, in weak warm ley; and the body bathed well with the same, by means of brisk friction with a flannel cloth well moistened with this liquid. The whole surface was then dried by the application of flannels. After this process of bathing the surface was finished each time, the ammoniated alcohol was briskly and forcibly rubbed over the affected hip-joint as well as over the other parts which were involved much in the disease. The shower bath was also used for a short time, but failed to produce any very decidedly beneficial effects, and was consequently discontinued. He also used, as a constant alterative medicine, after being sufficiently evacuated, the following bitters: *pinus pendula* or tamarack bark, six parts; *xanthoxylum fraxineum* or prickly ash bark, four parts; *prunus virginiana* or wild cherry bark, three parts; *polygala senega* or seneca snake root, three parts; *tanacetum vulgare* or tansy, one part: *Socotorine aloes*, one half a part. To an ounce of this compound, pulverized and thoroughly mixed, one pint of boiling water was added, a gill of molasses, and, when nearly cold, one pint of Holland gin. From a half to a wine glass full of these restorative and aperient bitters was taken three times a day, half an hour before eating. The diet was mild and nutritious. The bitters operated favorably in the restoration of the stomach, bowels, liver, kidneys, and skin.

The emetic was discontinued after the second dose, which was given a few days after the first; the purgative was repeated, at intervals of five or six days, for two or three weeks, when it was discontinued also; but the other means were, perhaps with a very few slight variations, continued through nearly the whole course of his treatment. A strengthening plaster was also applied to the hip and back. Under this course of treatment our patient's general health soon began to improve, and continued to do so, during the three or four weeks that he remained under our immediate charge at Worthington; but the local difficulty of the hip and back resisted much more obstinately the effects of the treatment. Although there was evidently some improvement in the condition of the affected limb, yet it failed to participate, to any very considerable extent, in the favorable changes which were taking place so rapidly in the condition of the general health.

After remaining here four or five weeks, our patient returned to New-

ark, with a sufficient supply of the means to continue the treatment for several weeks longer. About two weeks after he left here, we received a letter from him, from which we shall take the liberty of making a short extract. It speaks as follows: "I am much pleased to inform you that I am getting better. I think you told me when there, that my afflictions were greatly aggravated by the calomel which had settled and concentrated in the hip and leg. I am now under a severe salvation, and am suffering more from it than when I first took it. I assure you I have not taken any for more than twelve months, having pursued no other course than to take the medicine and apply the liniment and wash as you directed, and shall not, so long as I think I receive a benefit from them. There is no doubt in my mind, that the application of the liniment has started the lurking calomel to operate through the system, which I hope will all be for the better."

Our patient, as we subsequently learned, continued to grow better under the treatment which we directed, until he finally recovered the use of his limb, and his general health completely; and still continued in good health, at the last time we heard from him. His amendment was remarkably rapid, after the successful expulsion of the remaining mercury, which it seems, in this case, must have remained in the system from one to two years at least, in a state sufficiently active to produce its constitutional effects, in the act of escaping from it. However incredible this may appear to some of the more enthusiastic and infatuated advocates for the use of this mineral and its various preparations in the treatment of disease, it is nevertheless true, as this patient had not taken a single particle for more than twelve months previous to the occurrence of this event, which so happily resulted in the complete restoration of his health. The result of the treatment of this case is somewhat interesting on account of the positive proof which it affords, that mercury may remain in the human system, when once introduced, in a condition to produce the most disastrous effects on the health of the unfortunate individual whose physical system is made the unnatural depository of this too often destructive agent. And it is further shown, in a very satisfactory manner, that the supervention of salivation is insufficient to rid the system of the entire quantity which was given for that purpose; for it seems Mr. R.—had been salivated three several times, and the last, at the time he took the last mercury, a period of at least one year previous to the time he became our patient; yet a sufficiency of it remained in his system to give rise to the most disagreeable consequences, and it would undoubtedly have rendered him miserable for life, if it had not been successfully eradicated by the means employed.

### SUPERFETATION.

At R—, Ohio, Dr. S—attended the birth of a fine daughter, and after three days another from the same lady about four months advanced. This is a bone for physiologists to pick. Such cases have occurred before, but rarely so far advanced.—*Botanico-Medical Recorder*.



*From the American Phrenological Journal.*

## NOTES ON FASCINATION.

BY JOHN B. NEWMAN, M. D.

Since the publication of "Fascination," I have been much pleased by the perusal of "Mesmerism in India," the London edition of which I received a few days since. There is in it a perfect confirmation of many of the views I have advanced. So great is the author's reputation, and so candid and convincing his statement of facts, that many eminent English physicians, (and, among others, Dr. Forbes of the British and Foreign Medical Review,) have assented, for the first time, to the truth of a mesmeric influence, and its power for good.

Dr. Esdaile gives a detailed account of seventy-three painless surgical operations performed while the patient was in the mesmeric trance; and, also, eighteen medical cases successfully treated by the new method. But I principally value the work as corroborating my opinion of the heathen priests, supporting their religion by fascination. Dr. E., giving an extract from his Journal of June 9th, 1845, says, "I had, to-day, the honor of being introduced to one of the most famous magicians in Bengal, who enjoys a high reputation for his successful treatment of hysteria, and had been sent for to prescribe for a patient of mine, but came too late, the success of my charm (mesmerism) having left him nothing to do. Baboo Essanchunder Ghosaul, deputy magistrate of Hoogly, at my request, introduced me to him as a brother magician, who had studied the art of magic in different parts of the world, but particularly in Egypt, where I had learned the secrets of the great Sooleymann from the moolahs and fuqueers; and said that I had a great desire to ascertain whether our charms were the same, as the hakeems of Europe held the wise men of the East in high estimation, knowing that all knowledge had come from that quarter.

"I proposed that we should show each other our respective charms; and, after much persuasion, he agreed to show me his process for assuaging pain. He sent for a brass pot containing water, and a twig with two or three leaves upon it, and commenced muttering his charms at arm's length from the patient. In a short time he dipped his fore-finger in the water, and, with the help of his thumb, flirtd it in the patient's face. He then took the leaves and commenced stroking the person from the crown of the head to the toes, with a slow, drawing motion. The knuckles almost touched the body, and he said he would continue the process for an hour or longer, if it were necessary; and it convinced me, that, if these charmers ever do good by such means, it is by the mesmeric influence, probably unknown to themselves."

Dr. Esdaile expressed his conviction of the efficacy of the magician's charm, and desiring to show his own, persuaded the latter to lie down. After getting him in a recumbent posture, he commenced making the passes, chanting, as he tells us, to give due solemnity to the proceedings, the chorus to the "King of the Cannibal Islands." The magician became

considerably affected, and roused himself with much difficulty, acknowledging, however, the Doctor's power.

That there are magicians in other places besides India, at the present time, can be seen in an extract from the columns of the *Christian Intelligencer*, of June 3. The China missionaries, writing home an account of their proceedings, tell us, among other matters, of the preparation of two new tracts. "One of them gives an account of the Christian's peaceful death. The other contains two subjects; one is the way in which the true God is to be worshipped, and the other is an exhortation against putting confidence in a class of deceivers called Tang-che, who pretend to be able to cause the gods to enter their bodies, and who, while under the excitement of this deification, give efficacious charms and prophetic sayings to the people." That the perusal of "Fascination" would be useful to the missionaries I entertain little doubt, as it would convince them not only of the existence of such a state, but also of the proper method of exposing the undue pretensions of those who practice it. If the tract treats the Tang-ché as mere impostors, it will probably do more harm than good.

In the "*New York Medical and Surgical Reporter*," I saw an extract, a few weeks since, from a life of Franklin, giving his unfavourable opinions on the subject of Animal Magnetism. Had a little more examination been bestowed upon the matter, I do not think it would have been published. Franklin was one of the committee appointed in 1784, by the Royal Academy in France, to examine the subject. It is to be wished, that he had given his personal attention to it; as it was, he did not. The report of this committee is generally referred to as proving the falsity of the pretended science, but no opinion can be more erroneous. They admitted the facts, but denied the existence of a peculiar fluid. The celebrated Jussieu, who belonged to the committee, and had paid ten times more attention to the subject than any of his coadjutors, agreed with them in many of their conclusions, but differed in believing, that he saw proofs of the existence of an agent which could pass from one person to another, and exert upon the latter a sensible influence. So strong were his convictions on this point, that he refused to sign the report presented by his colleagues, and prepared a separate one himself. In 1826 the same Academy appointed another committee, who, after spending five years in close and earnest investigation of the subject, reported in 1831, not only endorsing the minority report of Jussieu, but going far beyond him in their conclusions. The Academy considered it proved, that "a certain number of well-established physiological and therapeutical phenomena appeared to depend on magnetism alone, and were never produced without its application." "During the state of somnambulism, (the existence of which is indubitably proved,) there is indeed clairvoyance, intuition, internal prevision, insensibility, and sudden and considerable increase of strength," etc.



*From the Hand-Book of Hydropathy.*

## DELIRIUM TREMENS.

Where this disease is ushered in by premonitory symptoms, they will be observed to consist of loss of appetite, loss of sleep, confusion of ideas, and general debility. The accession generally presents itself with delirium. The patients are prepossessed by one idea, of which they cannot divest their imagination. For the most part, they believe themselves to be pursued by men or animals, or by creations of their own imagination. They fancy themselves attacked, especially at night-time,—hence their inclination to leap out of bed. The majority of the superficial muscles of the body are in constant motion; sleep is totally lost; the countenance is pale; the eyes are bright, and vacantly fixed; the tongue is moist; the skin hot, and covered with a clammy, fetid perspiration; the region of the liver and stomach is swelled; there is slight thirst; and the action of the bowels is disturbed.

This disease is, generally speaking, of short duration. An attack may extend to ten or eighteen days, and is brought on by the immoderate indulgence in the use of brandy and other spirituous liquors. The chief point in the treatment is to purge the alimentary canal by copious water-drinking. If vomiting ensue, it must be encouraged by perseverance in the use of cold water internally. Where there is no vomiting, we must produce purging by the use of clysters and bandages round the abdomen. When the alimentary canal is thoroughly cleared, we should wrap the patient in wet sheets, and apply at the same time cold bandages repeatedly. The patient should remain in the envelopment until diaphoresis ensues. The sooner perspiration appears, the oftener the sheets may be changed; but five or six repetitions in the course of the day should suffice, for, by changing the sheets very often, too much heat will be abstracted from the body. Immediately after the first envelopment, the patient must be subjected to an ablution with cold water and conveyed to bed, if he feel exhausted. The bed should be kept clean and well aired. Where there is considerable determination to the head, as the continuance of delirium will indicate, it will become necessary to persevere with the cooling bandages to the head. Warming bandages to the abdomen afford also great relief in these cases. To prevent the patient from escaping, the doors and windows must be well fastened; for, if we attempt to restrain him by coercion, his state will be rendered worse. We must, therefore, snatch those moments when the patients feel most composed in the early stage of the disease, for the use of the envelopment.

These patients are very quickly brought to their senses by a judicious use of cold water. At first, they are certainly much exhausted, but fall asleep the sooner, and sleep must be regarded as the true crisis. The longer the patients sleep, the sooner they will recover. They occasionally continue in this state for twenty or thirty hours without once waking; nor should their rest be interrupted, if they do not wake for a longer period, as this proceeding would certainly prove injurious.

We may frequently succeed in curing this affection in a very short time, within twenty-four or forty-eight hours. Our chief endeavor should be

to wean the patient of the baneful habit of intemperance, which is not an easy task. We must keep these patients, at least during one year, under very strict surveillance, and firmly deny them the use of all intoxicating liquors, and totally disregard their representations and entreaties. Exhortations, earnest representations, and reproaches seldom suffice to keep drunkards from their unmanly, immoral propensities. They will frequently entreat us, on their knees, to indulge them in their habit for once, promising at the same time to abstain during the remainder of their lives from drinking. Be not mis-led by these idle phrases; for, if we listen to them once—but once accede to their wishes—they will become more impetuous in their requests, and, where prayers are of no avail, they will resort to threats. We must remain firm and unmoved, nor should we rest until we have totally crushed their vicious propensity. It is for this purpose necessary, that we should have the drunkard in our command, or we shall not succeed. He must never have money at his disposal, or be trusted with the management of his own affairs; for he will sell and pawn every thing to gratify the ruling passion.

*From the Water-Cure Journal.*

## RESUSCITATION OF STILL-BORN INFANTS BY MEANS OF COLD WATER.

The late Professor Dewees of Philadelphia gives, in one of his works, the following cases of resuscitation of still-born infants by means of cold water. They were quoted from Dr. Patterson in the "Bridgewater Infirmary Reports." The writer says, after having resorted to various expedients, "There being no appearance of benefit, and ten minutes having been lost in these fruitless attempts, I placed the infant in a tub, and twice dashed over it three quarts of water, the temperature of which was about 60 degrees. On the first dash, a slight convulsive motion of the body was sensibly excited; after the second, the heart and lungs were in evident motion, but this was exceedingly weak and tremulous. While the babe was allowed to remain for a few moments in the water, which scarcely reached its ears, the thoracic parietes (walls of the chest) were subjected to strong friction. In effecting this, the integuments were made to glide to and fro over the ribs, so as to excite titillation. Movements of the arms and legs and active respiration having quickly succeeded, the child was quickly removed from the vessel, well dried, and wrapped up in flannel. It slowly acquired strength and activity, but ultimately became remarkable for its large size and healthy appearance."

"In the second case, there was no appearance of life, yet vitality could not have been long extinct. The funicular (umbilical) connexion was therefore speedily separated, and immediate recourse was had to cold affusion. At first, a momentary shuddering was observed, and, in the next instant, the heart's action was comparatively vigorous. The child recovered, and both are now living.

*From the Practical Educator and Journal of Health.*

## LIVING BY RULE.

If the following things were always the lot of men, there would be little need of a "Journal of Health," or rather, every journal which gave a true description of the state of our race, would be but a journal of *health*.—Let them descend from healthy parents; possess strong and vigorous frames; live in salubrious climates; be educated to an active life; comfortably situated; engaged in healthy occupations only; always happy in their marriages, and their passions kept in due subordination. But it so happens, that these are not generally the lot of mortals, and, consequently, they are obliged to make the best of their condition or take the consequences of neglecting it; which are not unfrequently much anguish of both mind and body, terminating in an early death. In this state of things, we maintain, that rules of living are necessary and cannot be dispensed with, but at the risk of life. Still, there are those, who ought to know better, but who do maintain, that we may as well live at random as in any other way: and this, though they have the example of numerous men who lived to old age to confront them. A more signal instance of the kind cannot be found on the page of history than Lewis Cornario, the Venetian. But, as his "manner of life" is so well known, we will not stop to quote from it. If any one wishes for it, he can find it at our office. Thomas Parr, who died in London in 1635 at the age of 152 years, and Henry Jenkins who died in Elerton, Yorkshire, at the age of 169 years, are proofs of the same truth. Some may be surprised to hear these last two quoted to sustain the importance of a due observance of the rules of health and longevity.

These were laboring men, and, as peasants and hard working people, necessarily must have been much in the open air, and they must have been regular in their occupations. Besides, old Parr has left us a code of rules, short indeed, but pithy, and worthy to be remembered by all. They are really *multum in parvo*. They here follow: "Keep your head cool by temperance; your feet warm by exercise; rise early; and go soon to bed; and, if you are inclined to get fat, *keep your eyes open, and your mouth shut*." These are rules enough. They imply temperance in eating, drinking and sleeping. It has been said, many who are very particular as to all that pertains to health, live miserably and die early. Hence it is implied, that regularity and a due observance of rules is of no value. This inference does not follow from the premises; for, many of those who pursued this regular course were almost dead when they commenced it. They were driven to it by necessity—*by the fear of death*; and they would have died much earlier than they did, had they not resorted to regular habits.

The rules and the practice of Plutarch are worthy of the attention of all who imagine that rules and regularity are of no value in preserving health and life. He had rules and observed them; and, by so doing, maintained to an old age both corporeal and mental vigor.

Galen, the celebrated botanist and eminent physician, is another instance in point. He was a feeble and sickly child. It was with difficulty

that he was raised. Many were his illnesses before he arrived at twenty-eight years of age. He then learned that there were certain and sure rules for preserving health, and he observed them so carefully that he was never again sick, except an occasional feverish complaint which arose entirely from his constant exposure and fatigue in attending to the duties of his profession. By strictly following his own rules, he reached the great age of one hundred and forty years. In his Treatise on Health, he says, "I beseech all persons who shall read this work, not to degrade themselves to a level with the brutes, or the rabble, by gratifying their sloth, or by eating and drinking promiscuously whatever pleases their palates, or indulging their appetites of any kind. But, whether they understand physic or not, let them consult their reason, and observe what agrees, and what does not agree with them; that, like wise men, they may adhere to the use of such things as conduce to their health, and forbear any thing, which, by their own experience, they find to do them hurt: *and let them be assured, that, by a diligent observation and practice of this rule, they may enjoy a good share of health, and seldom stand in need of physic or physicians.*"

Cardinal de Salis, Archbishop of Seville, who died at the age of one hundred and ten years, was another instance to establish our position. When asked what system he observed, he answered, "By being old when I was young, I find myself young now I am old. I led a sober and studious life, but not a lazy or sedentary one. My diet was sparing, though delicate,—I rode or walked every day, except in rainy weather, when I exercised within doors for a couple of hours. So far I took care of the body; and, as to the mind, I endeavored to preserve it in due temper, by a scrupulous obedience to the divine commands. By these means, I have arrived at the age of a patriarch with less injury to my constitution, than many experience at forty."

John Wesley was a remarkable man, but not more novel and peculiar in his religious points and polity, than in his notions about medicine and health. By strict temperance, regular exercise, and judicious habits, though naturally slender, he lived to the age of about ninety.

We might protract this list almost indefinitely, but we forbear. "A word to the wise is sufficient; and, though thou bray a fool in a mortar, his folly will not depart from him."

In Shakspeare's *As you like it*, we have a graphic description of the healthy old man:—

"Though I look old, yet I am strong and lusty,  
For in my youth I never did apply  
Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood;  
Nor did I, with unbashful forehead, woo  
The means of weakness and debility;  
Therefore my eye is as a lusty winter,  
Frosty, but kindly."

Every week, and almost every day, we see notices of the sudden deaths of men who ought to have lived many years. Not unfrequently we find, they are those whom we had marked for such a sudden exit from earth. Their habits of life were the dial by which any careful observer of "men

and manners," might have predicted their speedy dissolution. But we can name men, whom we have known and watched for twenty years, and who we have never expected to hear have died suddenly. Many of them are *professional* men, and in the *various* professions too. We have not expected to see the premature death recorded of such men as Drs. J. J., J. C. W., W. C., J. B., of Boston, and others in the medical profession:—Nor, of such men as the Rev. Drs. J. of Boston, P. of Brookline, or D. of Thompson, Conn.:—Nor, in the legal profession, of the Hon. J. D., M. M., R. F., G. N. B., H. H. C., and others. Such men know *how* to live. They *may* die suddenly, as, in some families disease of the heart is hereditary, but they will not be likely to die from diseases of ordinary cast; such, I mean, as are induced by living *wrong*.

A man may form a tolerably correct opinion as to the term of a man's life, (accidents out of the question,) by seeing him a few times at the table, especially, if it be at a public dinner. We do not expect to see a *temperate* man stricken down, like an intemperate one. We use the term *temperate* in a wide sense, meaning to include the whole habits of a man's life. In this respect, it is far from the Governor of the world, to destroy the righteous with the wicked. We may tell, in a future number, *why* the observance of rules of life and health so often fail of producing their designed effect.

## HERB TEA.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—The remarks in a recent number of the Journal, respecting the efficacy of Botanical remedies, reminded me of a circumstance which took place, some years since, and was the means of convincing a few individuals, that powerful medicines can be obtained without poisons.

Mr. S. had been married but a few weeks, and his bride was a lovely and accomplished lady. Her health was perfect,—she had never known, by personal experience, what sickness is,—and they were looking forward to the future, with the most sanguine expectations of happiness. But disappointment is written upon all earthly hopes, and Mr. S. was not to be an exception from the general rule. His wife was suddenly taken with cholera. The family physician was called in, and did what he could to arrest the disease; but she continued to grow worse, and a council of doctors was called to consult measures for her relief. Mrs. S. had requested that a friend of hers, who had been long employed in nursing the sick, and, for a few years, had resided with a Botanic physician, should be sent for, to take care of her. As this lady approached the house and saw the carriages of the physicians, she became alarmed for the safety of her friend; but, when she entered the house, the silence and sadness that reigned in that once happy mansion, sent a chill to her heart. Soon the doctors came out, one by one, and silently left the house. Mr. S. did not inquire their opinion of his wife,—he could read it in their looks. After all had gone

but the attending physician, Mr. S. and the nurse, Mrs. T., entered the room, where the patient lay apparently in the last stage of the disease. The doctor rose from his seat beside the bed, as Mr. S. advanced and inquired "Is there no hope?" He could hardly command his voice to tell that afflicted man, that his wife must die, and his gushing tears spoke his sympathy with the sufferer. Mrs. T. looked for a moment upon the unconscious form of her friend, then, turning to the doctor, said, "Tell me, my dear Sir, can you do nothing more for this woman?" He shook his head, and then turned away. "Then you are willing I should do what I can to make her more comfortable, while she lives?" "Certainly," said Mr. S. "Certainly" responded the doctor. "If you can do any thing for her comfort, do it; for she cannot stay with us long." As he said this he left the house, and Mrs. T. applied herself to her task. She directed the friends to get some hot water, bricks, &c., while she sent a boy for some *herbs*. She wrote a note requesting him to carry it to the man with whom she had been living, and he soon returned with the requisite articles. What she gave her to drink, we do not know, but we soon saw its effect. The cold sweat was wiped from her limbs, bottles of hot water were placed around her, a plaster was applied to her stomach, and, in a short time, she sank into a sweet sleep, which continued an hour or two, when she awoke and began to vomit. The friends were now alarmed, and thought she must certainly die; but the joyful expression of Mrs. T.'s countenance told them that she, at least, had no fears of a fatal result. Through the day and night, the Thomsonian nurse continued her exertions for her friend, and the next morning, when the kind and sympathizing doctor came in to look at the corpse, he was very much surprised to find his patient sitting up in bed, eating a bowl of porridge. Turning to the nurse, he said, "What did you give this woman?" "*Herb tea, Sir*," said she in a tone of voice that forbade further questioning. Mrs. S. still lives, and, when her children are sick, she gives them "*herb tea*." (OBSERVER.)

## PROFESSIONAL COURTESY.

[By the following, it will be perceived, that an arrangement is now made with the new Institute in Virginia, more satisfactory than was ever our former connexion with the College in Georgia. The liberality of the charter given to the Virginia Institute, allows that College to show towards us greater courtesy than our friends of the Southern Botanico-Medical College felt themselves at liberty to employ. And, as the orthodoxy of the newly established Institute, in the cause of Botanic medicine, can no longer be questioned, we are happy in accepting the proffered kindness. Ed. Jour.]

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors of the Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute of Virginia authorize the Faculty of the Botanico-Medical College at Worcester, Massachusetts, to grant the diplomas of this Institution to such persons as they shall consider qualified to receive them;—for and in consideration of which, the Dean of the Faculty of the Worcester College shall pay to the Treasurer of this Institute the sum of five dollars for each diploma conferred.

Petersburg, Va., Aug. 5th, 1847.

THOS. S. PLEASANTS,  
Secretary.

## RECOMMENDATION.

[By request, we cheerfully give place to the two following communications respecting human magnetism. Ed. Jour.]

*To whom it may concern,—*

I hereby certify, that the bearer of this note, Mr. A. M. Peterson, is capable of doing much good as a magnetizer, in those cases where magnetism can be employed; and that I believe it is peculiarly adapted, in addition to medicine, to facilitate a cure in many nervous complaints.

This opinion is predicated on my own experience and observation in the treatment of a patient of mine during some months past.

*Greenville, Dec. 26th, 1846.*

BENJ. D. DEAN, M. D.

## HUMAN MAGNETISM.

*Sing Sing, N. Y., Sept. 4th, 1847.*

I hereby certify, that my son was afflicted with fits of the most aggravating nature. I employed two of the most practical and scientific medical men of our place, who had the treatment of his case;—but his disease seemed to baffle their skill, and they were forced to a conclusion which had the most direful effect upon my family,—that he never could be cured of his fits, supposing that they originated in an improper development of his brain, and that he would be an idiot.

In January last, however, I was present, when Mr. Abraham M. Peterson was making phrenological examinations, and, my brother being anxious for him to examine the head of my son, I invited him to call. After a proper examination of his head, Mr. Peterson pronounced it properly developed;—said, that the cause of his fits was in some other portion of the system,—that the brain was as well developed as any he ever saw,—and that the fits could be cured. So I employed him,—he commenced the treatment,—and it was but a few weeks before I could perceive a change for the better. I now have the happiness to announce, that he is completely cured, and enjoys *good health*; and his *condemned intellect* appears as bright as the morning star.

SMITH M. JENKS.

## COLD WATER A TONIC.

That cold water concentrates the spirits and strengthens the nerves and muscular fibres, by bracing them, as it were, like a drum, when the parchment-head is relaxed, is very evident by the experiment of two boys running for a wager a hundred yards, more or less. Let the boys be near of a speed and strength, take the boy that loseth and dip him in cold water, and let them run a second time, and the losing boy shall beat the other, &c. And, talking on this subject, I remember a gentleman told me, that, when he was a school boy, he used to lay a twig on two forked sticks, parallel to the ground, and to jump over, and he said that he always observed that, when he had been in the water, he could then spring much higher than at any other time.—*Dr. Baynard, 1702.*

## COMPLIMENTARY.

*Kennebunkport, August, 17, 1847.*

DR. NEWTON:—*Sir*,—I herewith enclose one dollar for the *Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal*. I cannot but congratulate you, on account of the high stand and the independent course you have taken, in regard to medical science. I am well pleased with the contents of your little sheet; and it is my opinion, it will exert a powerful influence in pulling down the strong holds of medical bigotry and superstition. There is no cause, save that of religion, more worthy the attention of the philanthropist, than that of medical reform. I have witnessed, in numerous cases, the great superiority of Dr. Thomson's medicine over the mineral. I have seen patients who were given up to die by the *regulars*, afterwards cured by the Thomsonian treatment.

Respectfully yours,

O. FREEMAN.

## Southern Department.

We commence, in this number, a series of articles on lobelia, from Prof. MacIntyre. As they proceed, our readers may find that they smack a little of Homœopathy, as the author is somewhat tinctured with notions of that sort. The articles, however, will be none the less valuable for this, as the Dr. adheres very closely yet to the fundamental principles of Thomson.

*Macon, Ga., Sept. 1, 1847.*

(C.)

## LOBELIA. No. 1.

To Prof. C. NEWTON, M. D.

*Dear Sir*,—From recent communications in the last numbers of your Journal, I perceive, that there is among our Thomsonian fraternity,—the professional portion at least,—a laudable spirit of inquiry,—research developing itself in relation to the essential therapeutic characteristics of our peculiar remedies. In your last number, I am pleased to see, that you have invited your correspondents to participate with you in the expression of an opinion relative to the "*modus operandi*" of lobelia inflata, by means of which the special inquiries of your Southern correspondent may be fully satisfied. Doubtless, it will be with great difficulty, that either myself or any one else can escape the imputation of vanity or heresy, if we shall hazard views, hitherto *not recognized* as orthodox, in the Thomsonian Confession of Faith, however consonant with the phenomena of nature they may appear. The sentinels stationed on the watch towers



of Thomsonism, have, generally hitherto, been watchful and prompt to sound the alarm throughout the encampment, whenever they apprehended the approach of an enemy in the guise of an innovation,—deeming, that Thomsonism, like Minerva from Jupiter, was full grown to maturity, as she emanated from the cranium of her sire. It is the inevitable fate of all important discoveries or innovations, which tend to affect the interests of any influential class of society, to become party questions at first. The disciples of the new party are frequently as tenacious of their errors as they are of their newly discovered truths, upon the merits of which they are wont to predicate their infallibility, or, at least, their decided superiority over their opponents. Hence the origin of dogmatism, not only in medicine but in religion and politics. Wo to him or to that sect who in medicine, at least, admits the principle, “*in verba magistri jurare* ;”—he is inevitably doomed to slow progress and mediocrity, yea, to comparative uselessness and insignificance. Who then among us is so base that he would not be a (Thomsonian) freeman? If any, let him speak, for him have I offended. Who among us has so far resigned the independence of his mind, that he will not emulate the example of Dr. Samuel Thomson? None, I trust. Then none have I offended. Have we not long enough experienced the healing virtues of Thomsonism to make us both capable and desirous of warming our souls with the Promethean spark, and of enjoying the exalted freedom of candid and earnest seekers of truth, irrespective of dogmas ancient or modern, “on christian or on heathen ground?” Thomson rose superior to all these influences combined,—characterized by that originality of thought and action which is wont to distinguish Reformers in all ages. Shall *his* disciples and followers presume to brand and stigmatize those among themselves who may venture to examine the foundations of this modern temple of Æsculapius, for the purpose of assuring themselves of the solidity of the rock on which it is based, and, if need be, of extending its area? To act thus, would be to imitate the very reprehensible conduct of those who persecuted and imprisoned the distinguished author of Medical Reform in these United States, where freedom of thought and freedom of action are almost commensurate with each other. Then let each correspondent be invited and encouraged to offer his views freely and candidly on this most vague and unsettled subject, viz., Therapeutics, or the art by means of which is ascertained the peculiar conditions of disease wherein each remedy is most appropriate and efficacious.

### XANTHORHIZA APIIFOLIA—PARSLEY LEAVED YELLOW ROOT.

This is a small Southern shrub, from one to three feet in height. It has a simple stem, with leaves ternate and deeply indented, resembling the common parsley of the gardens;—petioles dilated and clasping at the base,—the racemes compound below the leaves. It has no calix, is five petaled,—flowers of a dark purple color on drooping racemes, or spikes,

The capsule is half valved. The bark is smooth, the stem of the shrub is a little larger than a goose quill, and the root about the same size. The wood of the white plant is of a bright yellow color.

The root,—wood and all,—finely pulverized, can hardly be distinguished from the *coptis trifolia*, or gold thread of the North; and it possesses pretty much the same virtues as this last mentioned plant. It is a pure bitter tonic, and possesses some astringent properties, so as to render it a very valuable gargle, in canker and common sore mouth. The *xanthorhiza* would be indicated in all those cases where there is a relaxed and weakened state of the digestive organs, and where the mucous coat is abraded. In chronic diarrhœa, or in that state of the System produced by this complaint, it is one of the best tonics. It ought to be more extensively used, by our practitioners, and then we should not be under the necessity of *compounding* so much to suit the various forms of disease.

We have more than fifty tonics in our *Materia Medica*, and yet there are no two of them that possess precisely the same properties; and each has other qualities independent of its tonic virtues, so that one and another are suited to every form of disease, in the varying catalogue of complaints. It is in accordance with the genius of the present age, for our Botanic doctors, to find out the specific virtues of our extensive vegetable *Materia Medica*, and endeavor so to apply these, as the most speedily to assist the powers of nature in a cure.

From half to a whole tea-spoonful of the powdered root of the *xanthorhiza* is a dose.

In our remarks some time since, on *compounds*, we advanced the idea that, if we were acquainted with the specific qualities of our simples, we should seldom have occasion for compounds, as the Divine Botanist has given to individual plants certain properties so *exactly compounded* as to apply some to one and some to another of the multifarious forms of disease. The *xanthorhiza*, among others, we think, is deserving of particular attention in this respect.

*Macon, Ga., Sept., 1847.*

(C.)

## COMINGS' SARSAPARILLA.

As we have now supplied Dr. Newton of Worcester and Dr. Jacobs of Bangor with this article, we are anxious that our practioners should obtain a sufficient quantity to give it a fair trial. After an extensive practice of three years, since we first discovered the article; we can but pronounce it the best alterative we have ever known, and, as an *anti-mercurial* remedy almost a sure specific, in all cases.

We were lately very much surprised in reading the following symptoms for which the *sarsaparilla* was recommended. They may be found in Jahns Manuel of Homœopathic Practice." They are valuable from the fact, that the Diagnoses of the Homœopathic authors are worthy the attention of every medical man, whether he believes in the infinitesimal doses of Hahnemann or not. It is admitted by all, that this distinguished man and

his followers have made the greatest advancement in diagnosis, and have been more minute and particular in noticing symptoms than any other class of physicians.

Jahn observes," The cases in which this medicine may be used appear to be,—rheumatic and arthritic affections, especially, when caused by a chill in the water, or after suppressed gonorrhœa,—ulcers, and other sufferings from abuse of mercury,—urinary and renal calculi,—constipation, &c.,—pains in the joints,—itching over the whole body, especially in the evening; and in the morning when rising,—nettle rash,—herpes on all parts of the body,—coldness of the feet,—palpitation of the heart,—vertigo, after gazing at an object for some time,—headache, with nausea and sour vomiting,—throbbing pains in the head,—noise and buzzing in the head,—pains in the eyes,—burning sensation in the eyelids,—cloudiness before the eyes, like a fog,—facial eruption,—itching eruption on the forehead, with burning sensation,—spasmodic pressure in the throat, like constriction,—bitter and acid taste,—eructations and regurgitations, especially during and after a meal,—frequent and continued nausea, with ineffectual desire to vomit,—burning sensation in the stomach,—pain in the left hypochondrium, as if beaten,—shootings in the sides of the abdomen, especially in the left side,—sensation of emptiness and borborygmus in the abdomen,—painful and difficult evacuations,—obstinate constipations with frequent desire to urinate,—strangury,—frequent and profuse emission of pall urine day and night,—retarded catamenia,—burning sensation, when urinating,—spasmodic oppression in the chest,—offensive breath,—tearing and oppressive shootings in the arms, and joints of the hands and fingers," &c.

The above are not one half of the symptoms mentioned in this work, for which the sarsaparilla is recommended. We have only copied a few of the more striking, and those that we have verified by our own observations.

This will not be surprising to any one who will observe how great a number of these symptoms may be caused by the *use of mercury* in some of its forms.

Again, when we consider, that a great proportion of our *chronic* complaints are caused by a morbid state of the blood, and that the sarsaparilla operates almost entirely on this fluid, it will not appear strange, that this article is so universally applicable to the human family.

This preparation which we have offered for sale, is simply the sarsaparilla, with sugar, and a sufficient amount of alcoholic liquor to prevent its fermentation. Although the sarsaparilla is somewhat diuretic, yet we have found it desirable, in some cases, to add such diuretics as the burdock (*artium lappa*), or elder berries (*sambucus Canadensis*). We would, therefore, recommend to those who use our sarsaparilla to add some other diuretic when the case may seem to demand it.

A syrup made of sugar, with the decoction of the watermelon seeds, burdock, or elder, is a very valuable addition, in some cases of old sores,—in secondary syphilis, &c.

Macon, Ga., Sept, 1847.

I. M. COMINGS.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., OCTOBER 1, 1847. No. 19.

---

Home Department.

CASE OF SHIP OR TYPHUS FEVER.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—I send, for your disposal, the following report of ship or typhus fever.

I first saw the patient, a girl about nineteen years old, on the 14th of Aug. 1847, four days after she had been discharged from the vessel in which she emigrated; and I found her labouring under the following symptoms. Pulse feeble, tremulous, and about one hundred and twenty six per minute. The tongue was covered with a dark fur in the centre, the edges were clean and red, and there was pain in the eyes, head, back, and bowels. The skin was cold, lax, and damp. She had been troubled, for ten days previous, with a bad diarrhœa, and, a considerable portion of that time, with deafness and dizziness.

I gave a course of medicine, followed by a mild laxative, and then sudorific powders, once in two hours, in catmint tea, during the day and night. The second day, I found the patient relieved, in some respects, yet the diarrhœa and many other symptoms still continued, with a stronger tendency to delirium, a more tremulous pulse, and increased muscular debility. I ordered the sudorific powders to be increased, till vomiting was produced, and then to be given once in two hours as usual.

The third day, I found the patient a good deal worse,—had been very delirious through the night, but appeared quite rational, when I saw her, at 10 o'clock, A. M. I now saw, that deglutition was difficult; prostration and muscular debility were still more apparent; and the patient could not hold a tumbler to drink, nor stand, without assistance. The voice,

which at first was tremulous and weak, had now become so feeble, that she could scarcely utter a word sufficiently audibly to be understood by her sister, her nurse.

The fourth day, I found the patient very delirious; the skin, for the first time, dry and hot; the pain in the bowels not so severe, but the bowels swollen and tender. I poulticed the bowels, feet, and back of the neck. Previous to this, the feet had been soaked morning and night, and the bowels bathed in liniment. I gave an enema and laxative, and continued the sudorific powders made into a liquid, as the dregs caused the patient to strangle, when attempting to swallow.

The fifth day, I found the patient in the centre of the bed, winding the sheet around her neck. I asked how she did; and she replied, "am better, thank God." Her nurse told me, that she had been out of bed a dozen times, during the night; had wound the bed clothes around her head as many times; torn the curtain from the windows; and gone through with many other manœuvres.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth days, the symptoms and treatment were about the same.

The ninth day, she fell into a stupid state, from which it was, with difficulty, that she could be aroused. Low muttering delirium and catching at imaginary objects were fully established. I now commenced to give cayenne and elm tea. About 2 o'clock, A. M., on the 10th, the bowels began to drain off, and, at 3 P. M., of the same day, the patient had had *thirty* involuntary discharges.

The symptoms had now assumed a more fearful aspect than ever, and I was about three-fourths inclined to tell the friends, that I could do no more for the patient. The extremities were as cold as death, the pulse a mere quiver, the eyes turned up in the head, and the lips drawn away from the teeth, which were covered with a dark and dry incrustation.

Here I commenced giving a table spoonful of wine bitters, with tincture of myrrh in them, once in fifteen minutes, and continued them for twelve hours, when reaction took place, and the patient had five severe spasms or fits; after which, the circulation became more equal, the extremities began to grow more warm, a moisture made its appearance upon the whole surface, the patient rapidly recovered, and is now as well as usual.

Beside the symptoms above mentioned, the patient was covered with petechiæ or small purple spots,—one extending over the surface of the whole hand. One thing which I had concluded would operate against the patient was, that the catamenia with her had never existed. Beside the treatment spoken of, she was bathed frequently in warm salærated water, had diuretics, and was allowed to drink freely of cold water. What may appear a little singular to some Thomsonians, who reside in the great "city of notions," in the treatment of this case, is the fact, that no castor oil nor other cathartic was used; and, to some residing in, and to others, residing a little out of the *big city*, it may appear very curious, that none of Beach's sudorific powders were used.

I have never used cathartics nor narcotics in typhus fever, and have never lost a case in my life, when I saw the patient first and last.

*South, Weymouth, Sept., 1847.*

C. C.

P. S. The term cathartic has a very broad signification, and has never been properly defined by those who think cathartics indispensable in the treatment of this and other fevers. If some one will tell us what articles are, and what are not cathartic medicines, we shall be able better to understand what they mean by the term.

Our friend Jackson of Boston thinks, that cathartics do have a tendency to check perspiration, as those who disprove their use contend, but gets over it by saying, that emetics sometimes have the same effect; and he thinks, that cathartics ought to be used, because the bowels are a natural outlet of the body.

C. C.

## NERVOUS FITS.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—I noticed, in your valuable Journal, (of which I am a reader,) No. 8, page 129, an interesting article from Dr. I. Jacobs, headed “Modus Operandi of Lobelia.” In the latter part of this article, he says—“As some physicians may honestly differ in opinion from me, and think I attach too much importance to the sympathetic nerves, I will state one circumstance which has come to my knowledge in practice. I have found, that all nervous fits are brought on by some displacement of organs, or by the compression of the sympathetic nerves, so as to stop the circulation of the nervous fluid, which throws the whole system into confusion; and those fits can almost instantly be stopped by artificially pressing the cause from those nerves, without the use of medicine of any kind. This (he says) I have done in many instances—and it has never failed me—to the astonishment of all who have witnessed the trial; and I am bold to say, Show me a person in the struggles of a nervous fit, and I will quiet him immediately, without medicine. I will then, by the use of medicines for a short time, prevent a relapse.” Now, dear sir, will you permit me, through your Journal, to bear my testimony before the world, that the above statements are true to the letter. I speak from experience, and this I consider the best of proofs. If, therefore, any one has doubted, let him doubt no more. Perhaps, a worse case of the above description is seldom found, than mine has been; and, had it not been for the timely aid of Dr. Jacobs, (who, I believe, has a knowledge of such complaints and skill to relieve them which few physicians possess,) I doubt not, that I should ere this have been numbered with the dead. For a long time previous to his visiting me, I suffered, in connection with other complaints, from fits of the above description, which it would be vain for me to attempt to describe. Though I had many of the old-school physicians to attend me, who had various opportunities to examine and re-examine my case, and study it; yet none were able, with all their boasted learning, to point out the real cause of my untold sufferings, or administer to my relief; but all they could do was to add, as it were, fuel to the flame, and lay a foundation for much suffering through life. I should not shrink to say, even if all my former physicians were in hearing of my voice, that I never met with one who could satisfactorily explain to me the cause and effect

of my complaints and sufferings, or afford relief, till I met with Dr. Jacobs; and, since he has done for me what no other physician whom I had ever met with could do, I feel I am in duty bound to let the world know, that I can testify, from experience, that he well understands such difficult cases, and can render immediate relief, as above described. I feel I cannot speak too highly of the superiority of his medicines and skill, over those from whom I have received such mal-treatment. Oh! I shudder, when I think of the poisonous medicines I have taken from the hands of those who boast so loudly of their skill to discover and heal the maladies of the body. In view of the treatment which I have recieved, it is astonishing to myself and others, that I still live,—and, not only live, but enjoy a comfortable measure of health, though not good health. This I can never expect, even though under the care of the most judicious and skilful physician. The deadly poisons which I have taken have had too great an effect on my constitution, for me ever to expect an entire restoration. I firmly believe, if physicians, in general, had the knowledge of the causes and effects of diseases, that Dr. Jacobs has, *especially* those diseases which are incident to females, a great amount of suffering which many are now pining under, in hopeless misery, might be avoided. But, since such sufferings have arisen in the world by injudicious treatment, it is a pleasure to me to recommend my old experienced physician, especially to those who are, in any way, afflicted like myself; and, not only in *such cases*, but in *all cases*, it is my humble opinion, few will go before him, if put to trial. As for myself, I can never feel sufficiently grateful to him for the relief he has afforded me. May He who seeth in secret reward him openly. I close by saying I am a true Thomsonian:—experience has made me such. I care not for the frowns of my opposers. I have taken a decided stand, and placed my feet firm on the rock of Thomsonism; and none shall move me, while I am blessed with my reason. The only medicines I will take myself or recommend to others are such as our Heavenly Father has caused to grow in nature's garden for our use; and for what other use can we believe he placed them there, but to heal and invigorate our sickly frames. Oh! it does rejoice my heart to hear, that our cause is prospering,—that the scales of error, which have so long blinded the eyes of many, are being taken away. May God hasten the time, when all poisonous medicines shall be done with, and, in their stead, shall be used the harmless and efficient remedies of nature, which God has so kindly provided for us. Could I find language to express what I have suffered from the use of such medicine as I have here condemned, you would not wonder that my soul loathes and abhors it. I hope my readers will pardon my simple style of writing, since I am but a poor unlearned female. Had I not felt deeply interested in such a cause, I should never have attempted to let the world know, as I have done in both this and my former article, some of my sufferings and treatment. I would, a thousand times, prefer a Thomsonian physician, with a canister of lobelia, a bottle of No. 6, and a few herbs, to the most learned calomel physician.

Yours, &c.,

Bluehill, August, 1847.

NANCY D. BURNHAM.

## SCROFULOUS ULCERATION OF THE THROAT.

I was once called to visit a lady, about thirty years of age, who had suffered much, for several years, with a scrofulous humour about her throat, stomach, breast, and armpits,—so much so, (as she informed me,) that she had been under some one of the Faculty continually, for the last fourteen months previous to my being called. When I arrived, she could not speak, nor swallow, not even cold water; nor had she done it for thirty hours previous, and her friends had thought her, several times before my arrival, to be strangling with an ulcer or rising in the throat. I immediately prepared equal parts of cayenne, bayberry, and lobelia; added hot water sufficient to make the strongest decoction possible; gave one tea-spoonful, and told the patient, she must use every exertion to swallow it, as it was the last resort, and, if some of it could not be swallowed, she could not be relieved. She did, with much difficulty, swallow the most of it, which caused a flow of thick slimy matter or mucus, for some time after; and, when the flow abated, I gave more, and so continued adding, until she could speak and swallow with much less trouble. In forty minutes from the time I commenced giving the medicine, she took a pint bowl of porridge. I continued to give the same preparation, as often as once in twenty-five or thirty minutes, in tea-spoonful doses, the next forty-eight hours, when the ulcer broke, and discharged, as was supposed, about one gill of matter. I, then, gave her two full courses of medicine, which seemed effectually to cure the difficulty; so that she has never been troubled with it since. What I have here stated took place eighteen years ago, and I have treated many singular cases since, with equal success, having never failed to effect a cure. I give the simple facts and treatment for the benefit of those young in practice. Some may think the treatment harsh, but I consider it always necessary to conform to the necessity of the case; and, if we intend to save our patients in extreme cases, we must give thorough treatment. Very many somewhat similar cases, but less violent in the beginning, end in ulceration of the lungs and consumption, which might be easily thrown off, with a few courses of medicine.

*Bangor, Sept., 1847.*

I. JACOBS.

## ERRONEOUS NOTIONS OF LOBELIA.

*Dr. Newton* :—In my peregrinations about the world, I find the belief still prevails, that the salivation often noticed in horses is caused by lobelia. A few days ago, when standing before a hotel, a gentleman, in company with a number, directed my attention to a horse hitched to a post, saying, Dr., don't you think that horse feels sick? I suppose he has been taking some of your lobelia. The animal had a stream running from his mouth, that actually formed a rivulet for several feet over dry ground. I plainly contradicted the scandal upon the noble herb. I have repeated-



ly given it to horses without producing any thing of the kind. If that is not proof positive on the subject, how can it be proved? A man from Ohio, standing by at the time, said, he guessed it was as great a mystery as the sick stomach or milk sickness of his country. I have seen it stated with some proof, that it was young clover. I have certainly known a rapid growth of young clover, or something connected with it, produce the affection very suddenly. And it is a fact equally true, that a change of pasture will often cure it, although there may be lobelia in both. Nay, Dr. Mercury's master is never guilty of producing salivation. The lobelia inflata is not the "slabber weed" of the farmers.

A notion equally destitute of proof was long promulgated by the old-school physicians; which is, that it is a "deadly narcotic," and that, if it does not operate as an emetic or a cathartic, in a few hours, it often kills the patient. Operate as a *cathartic*! That shows just how much they know of it. It may set cathartic agents in motion. But a thousand persons can be brought to testify, from long experience, that it has no direct cathartic property.

So we see, it behoves us to think before we speak, look before we leap, and ever let our faith be demonstrated. I send you three subscribers with a bill enclosed.

Yours for the present,

FRANK RAMBLER.

---

## NEW ENGLAND BOTANICO-MEDICAL COLLEGE.

As the day is now drawing near on which our fellow citizens will be called upon to give their suffrages for individuals to compose our next legislature, and as it is important that petitions for a charter for our college should be extensively circulated for signatures before the 1st of January next, we at this time call the attention of our friends to a few points, touching their duty as members of the body politic. For ourselves, we have long been convinced, that a large portion of the questions which divide the leading political parties,—however important in the abstract,—are really considerations which ought to be waived entirely, when they conflict with certain measures not of a party character, but intimately connected with the welfare of the community. Now, that questions bearing on the permanent establishment and prosperity of the New England Botanico-Medical College are paramount to most matters of political strife, we are fully confident. For one, therefore, we are determined, that our vote, at the next political election, shall be cast for men,—to whatever *party* they may belong,—who will give their vote and influence, in the legislature, to grant our college a charter, according to the respectful, but earnest and decided petitions of thousands of their constituents; and we do hope, that every friend to our cause will pursue the same course which we have marked out for ourselves. We do not hesitate to say, that the disposal of our petition the last year, by the committee to whom it was referred, was *illiberal, unrighteous, and mean!* and

can you, fellow citizens, put into office the same or similar men, to act over like scenes the ensuing winter? For ourselves, we believe in a superintending Providence exerted over the affairs of men; but we believe, too, according to the instructions given by Hercules to the wagoner, that it belongs to us to put our shoulders to the wheel, before we expect the interposition of superhuman aid. Let us, therefore, as friends of the Botanic cause, be consistent; and, if we would have our petitions respectfully treated, let us appoint, to membership in the legislature, men who will be respectful. We can, if we choose, just as well have a charter the ensuing winter, as wait longer for it. We have only to be decided in our measures. Let us make up our legislature of the right kind of men, and then let us be determined in *demanding* of them our equal rights. Amidst the evils of party collision there arises one advantage of which we *may*, and *should* avail ourselves. We can, though a minority in the community, hold the balance of power, and thereby control the election of our public men; and this it is our duty to do. It is a means of accomplishing good which a wise superintending Providence has put within our reach, and we shall be criminal, if we neglect it.

We have sent printed copies of a form of petition into various towns in the State; and some of our friends have taken hold of the work of obtaining signatures in good earnest, and have already returned to us an extended list of names. From old Plymouth, for instance, we have received, by the voluntary efforts of an individual, a roll of closely written names, seven feet in length. We trust, that we have many friends in different places, who will emulate this noble example, and that, before the session of the next legislature, we shall have a list of sufficient extent to surround our legislative halls. In point of fact, we are not so "*feeble a folk*" as many uninformed persons take us to be; and, if we only unite our energies as we can and ought, even the most prejudiced of our opponents will feel and have to own our strength.

As some of the readers of our paper within the limits of the State may be disposed to aid in the circulation of petitions, but have not seen the form above referred to, we copy it here for their benefit. It can be legibly written out in a few minutes, and so made to answer the purpose of printed copies. The lists of names obtained should all be returned before the 1st of January next. Last year there was some misunderstanding and consequent neglect, in this particular, which operated to the disadvantage of the object had in view. The following is the form of the petition.

“**NOTE.** Will every friend, receiving this Circular, obtain as many signatures as he is able, and return them, to the Editor of the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, before the first of January, 1848, and earlier, if convenient? We hope to obtain, from different sections of the State, some fifty or one hundred thousand names. The paper for a long list may be annexed by wafers.

“*To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Massachusetts, in Legislature assembled:*

“Whereas a numerous and respectable portion of the community are in favor of that System of Medical Practice which teaches, that poisons are not properly medicines, and this is a growing conviction in the minds of

the intelligent and reflecting; and whereas it is the object of the New England Botanico-Medical College, which has, for the last two years, been in successful operation at Worcester, Mass., and is rapidly increasing in popular favor, scientifically to explain the peculiarities of this System, as well as to illustrate all the Branches of a Medical Education taught in other Medical Colleges; and whereas a former respectful petition of the friends of this College was most illiberally and unrighteously rejected by the last Legislature, without a hearing:—

“Therefore, your petitioners humbly pray, that said College may not be denied the privilege, to which it is, by equal rights, entitled, of enjoying proper facilities for educating medical students, and thus removing quackery from the profession; and, to this end, they pray, that such individuals as the New England Botanico-Medical College may designate, be constituted and appointed, by the Legislature of this State, a body corporate, under the name and title of the Trustees of the New England Botanico-Medical College, and that all the rights, privileges, and immunities, usually granted to other Medical Colleges, be also granted to this; and, as in duty bound, will ever pray.”

As, doubtless, many towns in the State, containing friends to our cause, will not receive a copy of the petition directly from us, we hope our friends, in the different sections, will do what they can, not only in circulating the petition among themselves, but in getting copies of it, (printed or written,) into other places of their acquaintance, and in inciting others to assist in the circulation. Let us make “a long pull, *if necessary*, a strong pull, and a pull altogether;” and success will certainly be ours. [Ed. Jour.]

~~~~~  
From the New York Thomsonian.

## LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA.

*Tulip Tree, White Wood, Poplar.*

CLASS 1. ANGIOSPERMIA. ORDER 2. MAGNOLIACEÆ.

LIRIODENDRON.—*Sepals* 3, caducous, *petals* 6; *carpels* imbricated in a cone, 1—2 seeded; *seeds* attenuated at apex into a scale.

TULIPIFERA.—A native and well known tree in the United States. It is found from Canada to Louisiana, and is especially abundant in the Western States, where it attains to a very large size, and rises to the height of from 80 to 125 feet. The tree is generally straight and cylindric, abruptly divided at top into large crooked branches. The leaves are dark green, smooth, truncate at the end, with two lateral lobes, from 3 to 5 inches in length and breadth. In May and June it puts forth numerous large and brilliant flowers, greenish yellow, orange within, solitary, which gives to the tree a noble and beautiful appearance.

PROPERTIES AND USES.—The bark of the trunk and root is the part used in medicine. Its active properties seem to reside in an intensely

bitter principle which it contains; and it is a tonic, stimulant, astringent, diuretic, and slightly aromatic, and anticeptic. The poplar is, perhaps, adapted to a greater variety of cases, as a tonic, than any other article in our *Materia Medica*. It may be beneficially administered in the form of decoction, tincture, or a powder, in cases of indigestion, canker, faintness at the stomach, obstruction of the urine, and general debility. It also possesses another important property which is not commonly known, that of an anthelmintic. When used to expel worms, the bark of the root should be employed, and used in the form of a strong decoction, drinking freely of it for three or four mornings in succession.

Dr. J. T. Young, of Philadelphia, in a letter to Gov. Clayton, of Delaware, written in 1792, speaking of the poplar, says:

“The *Liriodendron Tulipifera*, tulip or poplar tree, grows throughout the United States of North America. The best time to procure the bark for medical purposes is in the month of February; as the sap at this time, being more confined to the root, increases its virtue. It possesses the qualities of an aromatic, bitter, and an astringent; the bitter quality is greater, the astringent less, than in the peruvian bark. It likewise possesses an aromatic acrimony. Hence, I infer, it is highly antiseptic and powerfully tonic. I have prescribed the poplar bark in a variety of cases of the intermittent fever; and can declare, from experience, it is equally efficacious with the Peruvian bark, if properly administered. In the phthisis pulmonalis attended with hectic fever, night sweats, and diarrhœa, when combined with laudanum, it has frequently abated these alarming and troublesome symptoms. I effectually cured a Mr. Kiser, fifty years of age, who was afflicted with a catarrh and dyspeptic symptoms for five years, which baffled the attempts of many physicians, and the most celebrated remedies, by persevering in the use of poplar bark for two weeks.

“I can assert from experience there is not, in all the *Materia Medica*, a more certain, speedy, and effectual remedy in the hysteria, than the poplar bark combined with a small quantity of laudanum. I have used no remedy in the cholera infantum but the poplar, after cleansing the primæ viæ, for these two years. It appears to be an excellent vermifuge. I have never known it to fail in a single case of worms which has come under observation. I prescribed it to a child when convulsions had taken place. After a few doses, several hundreds of dead ascarides were discovered with the stools. The dose of the powder to an adult is from a scruple to two drachms. It may likewise be used in tincture, infusion, or decoction; but its virtues are always greatest when given in substance.”

In his reply, the governor observes:—“During the late war the Peruvian bark was very scarce and dear. I was, at the time, engaged in considerable practice, and was under the necessity of seeking a substitute for the Peruvian bark. I conceived, that the poplar had more aromatic and bitter than the Peruvian, and less astringency. To correct and amend those qualities I added to it nearly an equal quantity of the bark of the root of *dogwood*, (cornus Florida or boxwood,) and half the quantity of the inside bark of the white oak tree. This remedy I prescribed for several years, in every case in which I conceived the Peruvian bark necessary or proper, with at least equal, if not superior success. I used it in every species of intermittent, gangrenes, mortifications, and in short in every

case of debility. It remains to determine whether the addition of those barks to the poplar increases its virtues or not. This can only be done by accurate experiments in practice."

## A NEW DISEASE.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—I have been, for several weeks, puzzled with the appearance of a strange epidemic in the place, where I am at present employed. It has all the characters of an eruptive fever. The symptoms are,—a peculiar rash varying much in its appearance,—considerable fever,—tongue furred, and interspersed with red points,—and a cough, with abundant expectoration. In infants, who are not in the habit of expectorating, the lungs are much oppressed with the mucus. This latter circumstance appears the most threatening of any thing I have seen in the disease.

The above symptoms are far from being uniform in every patient.—Where the eruption comes out early and perfectly, there is little or no cough and fever. In these cases, the pustules seem to me to resemble those of chicken-pox. But it has affected old and young, which, I believe, is not common with that disease. In some cases, the eruption appears in the form of a rash, almost exactly like scarlet fever interspersed with pustules. These pustules are, at first, red, and have small hard nuclei in their centres, which, by pressure, appear white. These are eventually crowned by blisters, to which succeeds a scab. One day, I visited a child, having the complaint, in company with another physician. At first sight, he pronounced it a well marked case of scarlet fever, with the rash finely out. But a close examination exhibited pustules, in several places, no larger than those in ring-worm. Besides, there has been, in no case, any soreness of the throat, as in scarlatina. Its symptoms have been so irregular, and the pustules so much scattered, both as to time and territory, that, I suppose, the people would not have noticed the disease as an epidemic, had not their attention been called to it. At length, some little light seems to be thrown on the subject. I recently visited a young lady, who had been suffering with a slight affection of the lungs. I found her well covered with both the scarlet blush and the pustules. Her father, a farmer, soon came in, and began to remark, that he had a singular humor. In him the pustules were very large and sparsely scattered over the body. He had not thought, that it was the same which his daughter had. He said, he believed he caught it from his cows, who, a little while before, had had similar pustules on their teats, as some of his neighbors cows had had, and he supposed it was the cow-pox. Here was a new idea in the mysteries of the disease. I was not aware, that the kine-pox had ever prevailed, in the natural way, among the cattle in this country; nor am I aware, that it is ever communicated from one person to another, without vaccination, as must have been the case with the disease in question. With the following questions, I will drop the subject, at

present. Is this the genuine vaccine disease in the natural way? Is it some other disease which cows, as well as people, may have? Have you, or any of your correspondents observed it? FRANK RAMBLER.

*Spencer, Sept. 17th, 1847.*

P. S. Since writing the above, I have attended a little girl, six years old, who was evidently taken with the above disease. She had been subject to head-ache. The rash suddenly disappeared, and the brain seemed to be considerably affected, as evinced by the delirium and dilatation of the pupils. A most obstinate fever ensued, which has now the character of typhus, in its worst form. Several other children in town have had what their physician has called typhus fever, which, I *guess*, has had the same origin. Two others of my patients, with whom the rash was certainly developed, had a regular fever, and a little improper medication might have made it a typhus. RAMBLER.

*Addenda.* The little girl, above alluded to, after very thorough treatment, has, at length, exhibited several of the pustules or vesicles, and is recovering. The eruption has a variolous appearance; and, were it not for its generally mild form, it would compare well with varioloid. Another objection to this name, with some, would be, that it affects those who have not been vaccinated, without producing the ordinary symptoms of small pox. It is worthy of remark, that the pustules are often several days in making their appearance, after they have begun. I have treated it on the ordinary Thomsonian plan. I would mention, as one important fact which I have observed,—the decidedly bad effects of cathartics, given by others. This is a mistake which the most judicious physicians may make, if they do not recognize the disease.

*Spencer, Sept. 21st, 1847.*

(R.)

*From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.*

## SURGERY BY STEAM AND LOBELIA.

Mr. Owen Jenkins of Mt. Carmel, Indiana, was thrown from his carriage on Tuesday, the 31st ult., and the head of the left femur was dislocated outwards and upwards, so as to shorten the limb between two and three inches. Efforts were made twice that day, by the best Surgeon of the place and his assistants, to replace the bone; and the next day these efforts were twice repeated with more aid but without success. Mr. J. then resolved to come to our Infirmary; but some of the good people of his neighborhood thought it would be much better to remain a cripple for life, than to run the risk of going through a course of steam and lobelia. They were sure he would never return again alive. But on he came. Between six and seven o'clock in the evening we found him, in our Infirmary, so sore from the effects of the before-mentioned efforts and 33 miles ride, that he could scarcely bear to be touched. We gave him catnip tea and put him into the vapor bath, till his soreness was removed.

We then gave him lobelia, in broken doses, every three to five minutes. The system re-acted against it, and produced emesis, till his stomach, which was quite foul, was thoroughly cleansed. The medicine now had its desired effect. At fifteen minutes past eight o'clock, we perceived that he was thoroughly relaxed. We put one long towel around the dislocated limb, so as to enclose the spine of the ilium and the ischium, and extend towards the back to sustain the pelvic bones—another around the limb, above the knee, so as to include two more, one on either side, to aid in the extension, this occupying two minutes or more. An assistant to each of the towels to produce a gentle and steady extension, and the aid of our own hands near the joint, raising and elevating the upper portion of the femur, all acting judiciously, the head slipped into its place in about three minutes, viz : at twenty minutes past eight. Another hour of slight vomiting and thorough rubbing with the hand, and he was in bed and sound asleep, notwithstanding he had taken lobelia enough, if the doctors say true, to kill all the inhabitant of Mt. Carmel. We gave him about half a pound of lobelia. How much would it take to kill a man? Will the doctors answer?

Is it not surprising that people will fight against remedial agents so simple, so safe, so salutary, as lobelia, the vapor bath, &c., and against physicians who can effect with them what the most scientific fail to do with other means? The pain in this case was quite trifling compared with that of the fruitless efforts which preceded. He slept comfortably last night, and this morning (the 3d Aug.) walked down stairs to breakfast, and is now gone home again.

Our regular friends will here see that, if any of them have small jobs that they cannot do, such as this, or setting the neck, or mending up the liver, they can send them to us, and we will attend to them.

We have straightened a hump-back of many years standing—set an elbow after several months had elapsed—a shoulder after twenty two days—an ankle after sixteen months—and a neck after twenty-four hours; in all which cases the regulars had tried their skill in vain.

We lately broke, in one hour, (by magnetism,) a case of fits, on which they had tinkered for some years, till the patient was nearly ruined in mind, as well as body. He soon recovered the right use of both.

We cured, last week, in one afternoon, a case of leucorrhœa, that had baffled the skill of Allopaths and Homœopaths, sixteen months; yet these gentlemen call themselves scientific and us a quack and an ignoramus. Are they not smart?

---

## THE SLOW PROGRESS OF REFORMS.

[We owe the writer of the following an apology for our neglect of his communication. In the great multiplicity of our engagements, it was mislaid and overlooked, till, of late, our attention was called to it. We mean to "do the thing that is right," but find we cannot possibly do every thing at once, and sometimes we omit to do in season the things which we have fully intended not to neglect. Ed. Jour.]

DR. CALVIN NEWTON :—*Sir*,—When any mode of life or method of living becomes a fixed custom or habit, with communities or individuals, it is extremely difficult to eradicate it, however injurious; and, unless exploded by a miracle, it may be fairly supposed, that some of the prevailing errors, in social and governmental adoption, will continue forever, in sections. Nature is ever clinging to entities, and never likes to loose hold on any object of affinity on which a grasp had been made. Philosophy teaches us, that she never leaps; and a connection always exists between all the parts of the natural world, which constitute tangible existence. Thus, between the animated creation and the vegetable there is a link in the oyster and the sensitive plant;—between quadrupeds and birds, in the bat or ostrich,—and between man and beasts in the ourang outang or chimpanze;—and so on *ad infinitum*. Whatever holds, therefore, true in the natural, is so in the moral or abstract world. It is but an application of the same unvarying rule, that we discover, in whatever direction we make observation. Thus, metaphysically viewing, we see how the church, and State, and domestic society are connected by their several but homogeneous duties;—and that, whatever effects the sanctuary, with detriment, touches the welfare of the State, and molests civil communities, and persons;—and whatever is good to either is so to all. This view, however, must be divested of bearing upon churches, governments, or communities, that have the political or ecclesiastical machinery perverted, to the injury of the people at their domestic altars. This consideration is, nevertheless, embraced in the idea of the sympathetic prosperity or prostration existing between all,—in proportion to the proper or bad action of either. Usurpations or absorption of power into one channel or circle, for the exclusive benefit of that particular department, is a rupture of the affinity between all, and nullifies the healthy operation of the whole.

As nature thus acts tangibly and morally, it is fair to suppose, that the same mysterious sympathy extends to systems and institutions. Unless some impediment obstruct the political State, government will always remain as it is originally constituted,—Russia always the same autocracy,—England the same kingdom,—Germany the same principalities,—and the Hanse town or Bremen, the same aristocratical Electorates. To transform either of them into a Republic or a Democracy would be a work of time, and trouble, and peril. It would startle the Boor or Serf; and the magnitude and novelty of the undertaking would appal his mind, and cause his pulsations to beat with thrilling agony. The present generation would succumb to the panic, and leave untried the experiment made, and that for a time succeeded, only to be relumed in this western world, a hundred years afterwards, by the stern fearlessness of a Hamden, a Sydney, and a Milton. Another will have to rise better indoctrinated with the spirit thoughts of liberty, if even these ancient monarchies are to see in their firmament freedom's star.

Just so is it with the prospects of every Reform. It is the remarkable phenomenon of the moral world. Luther, the Protestant Reformer, would in vain have stirred up real opposition, had not a Huss and an Erasmus, long before, prepared the way. The first inception of improvement or amelioration, so far from striking apprehension with its truths,



surprises by its novelty, and repels by its boldness,—alarms by its difficulties, or fails to excite the torpid energies of lukewarm friends. Moral operations, like the appearance of animal and vegetable life, have to undergo infancy, juvenility, and youth, before they attain maturity. While the world is loath to abandon accustomed pursuits, the youth of a theory cannot check the general routine,—and the triumph of the reform must belong to the maturity of manhood.

The above reflections occurred to me, whilst contemplating the refusal of the legislature of Massachusetts to incorporate a Botanical University of medical instruction. Surely, Thomson's uprising and progress has been like that of the prophet, "without honor" in his immediate native location; whilst States afar off, for instance, Virginia and Georgia, have not hesitated to grant his disciples the requisite statutes. The knowledge of one's family or parents, it would seem, keeps back honor from a man,—especially and always, provided he moves not in the ancient orbit, but would shape out a new course for himself and others. There is not, I guess, a single individual, born and bred in one location, who is honored with public confidence, if he does not pursue the beaten path laid down by the master spirits of former generations. There is scarcely a solitary instance,—if even there be one,—in which a man shines as a first originator of a Reform, in any matter of great interest, from his immediate natal neighborhood. So indicative of human nature is this course, that I certainly calculate the most possible way of carrying on a social, political, or medical innovation is, to leave home and sojourn in a remote country.

A terapin movement is the volucry with which mankind seem determined to allow improvements. Objections to neteoric experiments are as multitudinous as fallacious. Interested Faculties are as prone, as the Pharisees of old, to fear and flatter the public prejudice, and to keep animosity alive to every scheme calculated to overthrow their long practised enormities. Why they do not adopt the Botanic remedies, when they have long detected the fallacy of Paracelsus as a prescriber of mercury, and the dangerous regimen of venesection,—is a question soluble only by the philosopher, deep read in the motive springs that sway the human heart. Men proud of their profession, though—as Rush, Sydenham, and other leading luminaries in the old practice confessed—uncertain of the action or efficacy of their remedies, and of the adaptation of whole laboratories to some particular malady, are not willing to humble their intellects before a self-taught genius, or to try to test the extent of his precision and of their error. And, as pride of opinion is incapable of discerning truth in its modest retreat, the Botonic Medical Reform will have to attest its supremacy over the regular mineral practice, by the gradual accumulation of proofs, and the greater candor and freedom from prejudice of the next generation of Physicians. Society here will gradually relax the tenacity of its hold on a present method, when a better regulation shall be offered to its judgment.

And the time is fast approaching, when the two Medical Faculties will stand or fall by their exclusive merits or demerits. This is the right of the people, against which there should be no appeal; and how the legislature of your State could refuse to this experiment all the advantage, on both sides, of superior education, and do as much and command the

community to submit still to one polity, that assumes to make an imperative decision for itself—transcends my conception of common sense, and the imprescriptible freedom of the popular choice!

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't.

Wellington, Ga., June 22, 1847.

J. J. FLOURNEY.

*From the London Lancet.*

## NERVOUS HEADACHE.

Dr. R. Howard prescribes, with success, for nervous and various other headaches, a mixture of a drachm of acetic acid, an ounce of compound tincture of cardemons, and four ounces of some convenient vehicle, of which he directs a mouthful to be taken every twenty minutes.

*From the London Medical Times.*

## OPERATION FOR HARE-LIP.

Mr. Ferguson's opinion is, that, under all circumstances, the best period for operating is immediately after suckling, provided the patient is otherwise in good health, and does not suffer from teething. It is usually a safe operation at all periods of life.

# Southern Department.

## LOBELIA. No. 2.

Now, as lobelia inflata has been distinguished, by Dr. T. himself, as No. 1,—“the head and front of our offending,”—and as your worthy correspondent has solicited special information upon its “*modus operandi*,” I propose to offer a few crude conceptions relative to its therapeutic action, or the means of ascertaining it.

1st. In order to become clearly intelligible to your readers, it may be necessary to premise my views in relation to health and disease. It has been very correctly and repeatedly remarked, that health, a precious gift truly appreciated by those only who have lost it, is that state of an individual in which all the physical and moral functions are carried on regularly, with ease, and without pain. “Perfect health does not show itself merely by the presence of a physical well-being, by cheerfulness, good humor, and moral contentment, but also by the faculty of resisting,—without being affected by the ordinary external or internal morbid causes to which life is incessantly exposed;—physical injuries, and the action of strong doses of poison excepted.”

Even age does not change a perfect constitution. "The aged man who enjoys good health, although he does not possess the strength and agility of the young, and the capability of fulfilling the functions proper to youth, is yet, not less cheerful and less generous, nor less exempt from suffering. He enjoys a moral and physical well being, and knows nothing of the imbecility attached to his age." It cannot be said with propriety, that an individual enjoys perfect health, *if* a light current of air, the least bad weather, the changes of the seasons or of the moon, a frost, a little over excitement, fatigue, somewhat prolonged vigils, the smallest excess in eating, the least vexation or trouble, in a word, the slightest deviation from his accustomed mode of living, produces indisposition and sickness.

2d. In looking around us, therefore, we shall soon be convinced, that very few persons, in our present state of civilization, enjoy *perfect* health. Almost all possess it in a relative degree only; that is, approaching more or less to the state of normal health, or of disease, which may be the consequence, either of our mode of living contrary to the laws of nature, or of an hereditary predisposition, entailed upon us by our ancestors. "Here it may be proper to notice Dr. T's. remark in relation to lobelia. He says, "There are two cases where this medicine will not operate, viz: when the patient is dying, and where there is no disease." This, then, is one of the dogmas originating with our distinguished Reformer, received without qualification and propagated with confidence by Thomsonians generally, upon the merits of his valuable discoveries and superior success in the healing art. Of the truth and philosophy of its *inertness*, in the former case, no reflecting and intelligent mind can entertain a doubt, provided he can decide *positively* and *absolutely*, that the patient is in a dying condition. But, in my humble opinion, it will be found as difficult, in many cases, to determine *this* condition definitely, as *that* of perfect health, that is, where there is *no* disease.

3d. Now disease may vary infinitely, according to the constitution and habits of the individual; from the slightest indisposition to the greatest; from a wart to a whitlow; from a rigor to a fever, or the most serious disorganizations of the viscera. A state of debility, susceptibility, lowness of spirits, or mental irritability may be a state of habitual health to one person, while it is to another, who is habitually cheerful and healthy, a positive disease. Disease and health, then, are, when taken in an absolute sense, correlative terms; the former differs from the latter, in importance, as the various organs do not perfectly fulfil their destination.

## REPORTS.

We have received two reports of interesting cases from Dr. E. Perry of Russell Place, S. C., which we shall publish, when we get through with the press of matter which we now have on hand. We are under obligations to the doctor, for the *substantial aid* which he has sent us, and hope to hear from him often. It is also gratifying to us to learn, that our paper is so well appreciated in South Carolina.

*Macon, Oct., 1847.*

(C.)

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., OCTOBER 16, 1847. No. 20.

---

Home Department.

---

A FREAK OF NATURE.

At 10 o'clock, A. M. on Thursday the 16th ult., the daughter of Mr. Edwin R. Millard of Millbury was born; apparently in a healthy condition. The frontal bone, however, was not fully developed, so that a division existed, in a perpendicular direction, from the anterior fontanelle to near the lower extremity of the bone. The palate also was badly cleft, or nearly wanting.

As, during the day, there was no fecal discharge, it was thought proper, in the evening, to give the child some gently laxative medicine. This only produced distress, fulness of bowels, and vomiting; and, on Friday morning, an examination showed the case to be one of imperforate anus, but admitting the probe to enter about three-fourths of an inch from the surface,—the external appearance being natural. At 5 o'clock, P. M., on Friday, we found the swelling of the bowels to have somewhat increased; and, though the countenance of the child was still healthy, the nurse reported, that there had been frequent emeses during the day,—the appetite seeming to be good. A surgical operation had been proposed, but it was thought best to defer it, till the next day. At 3 o'clock, P. M., on Saturday, when we saw the child again, her countenance had assumed a sickly and sallow aspect; and we learnt, that, during the day, she had been much oppressed, and had somewhat frequently vomited bilious matter of a bluish green color. The bowels were very full and hard. At this time, Dr. J. Sarjent of this town, at our request, performed the operation, but without effect. A very slight hæmorrhage at first ensued,

but it afterwards increased; and, at 7 o'clock in the evening of the same day, the child died,—directly, it is probable, from the loss of blood, though, during the whole day, she had seemed to be fast approaching her end.

On Sabbath morning, we attended a *post mortem* examination, and the result was somewhat curious. There was no rectum; and, instead of the sigmoid flexure of the colon, the bowel ended in a perfect sack. This, being filled with gas and fecal matter, resembled, in shape and general appearance, an inflated bladder. In its largest portion, near the extremity, it was about an inch and three-fourths in diameter. This terminating portion of the intestine lay loose in the left iliac region, and in the interior part of the abdominal cavity. It was distant from the anus about three or four inches. The knife, in the operation, reached within about an inch of the extremity. The incision, however, was confined to the muscular tissue covering the sacrum internally, and did not penetrate into the abdominal cavity. In order for the knife to have perforated the intestine, it must have entered this cavity, and, of course, the issue would have been fatal, even though the fecal matter had found a way of escape. The case was one of nature's freaks, such as we had never witnessed, and such, we suppose, as rarely comes under the eye of any Practitioner. [Ed. Jour.]

## REVIEW OF REMARKS BY PROF. COMINGS.

[In regard to the matter of the relation of our College to the Southern Botanico-Medical College, we admitted Prof. Comings' communication without comment, and we should do the same, with the following, were it not for one remark, which we think calculated, without explanation, to mislead our readers. We refer to what is said respecting the compensation to be received by the Southern Botanico-Medical College for graduating our students. We have not now at hand all the papers containing the correspondence; but it must be understood, that, before the official communications directed to ourselves and the students of our College were received, several letters had been addressed to Prof. Comings by different members of the Faculty and Board of Trustees at Macon. In these letters, which came under our eye, it had been distinctly implied, that, probably, the Southern Board would so far recede from the former agreement, as to make the reception, by that Board, of one half, at least, of the graduating fees a *sine qua non* to the graduation of our students. Different expressions were employed by different individuals, writing at different times; but, as Prof. C. will well remember, we remarked to him, that, for our part, we would not let the matter of a few dollars divide our interests. And, as, in either one of the official communications or a previous one,—we have forgotten which,—the expression "We will be honorable in dividing the fees with you," was employed, we said we will put upon that expression the construction most favorable to ourselves, and interpret it to mean an *equal division*. We said we did not think it became us, ask-

ing favors at the hands of others, to dictate to them what course they should pursue;—we wished to be entirely respectful. We did, however, feel, that, though we originally had no claim on the Southern Board for assistance, yet, after they had *voluntarily* offered to graduate our students for a specified sum to be received by themselves, there was not a sufficient reason for such a modification of the pecuniary consideration, as was suggested. If they were necessarily, on our account, at some extra expense not contemplated at the time of constituting us a branch College, &c., it would have been more consistent with our Yankee notions of honorable dealing, for them, after and so long after the negotiation had been fairly made, to have stated the fact, and contented themselves with referring the matter to our sense of propriety. As an individual, we had repeatedly expressed the wish, that they might be fully compensated for all the sacrifices of time and money made on our account. It must be remembered, however, that, by relinquishing a part of the fees to ourselves, they would not do, as suggested in the communication below, that is, graduate our students for a less sum than their own. Each of our students graduated would be required to pay twenty-five dollars for his graduation; and the withholding of his degree could not benefit them at Macon. *Whatever* sum, less or greater, might be paid to them for each graduation, would be so much in their favor; and the only question is, whether it would be an adequate and honorable compensation for their kindness and trouble.

As to the reason given for refusing to allow us to remain a branch College, or to continue to repose in our Faculty the power to confer degrees, it was doubtless satisfactory to themselves; but we frankly confess, we never had *sence* enough to comprehend the logic employed. When they acknowledged us as a branch of their College, they appointed a Faculty for the branch, as they had previously appointed one for the mother College. It so chanced, that three, out of the four members of the Faculty of the branch, were already members of the Faculty of the mother College. This was incidental. So far as we know, the power to confer degrees in all Colleges, resides in the Board of Trustees, except they delegate it to the Faculty. And, as in this case, the one Faculty appointed by the same Board was just as much the organ of that Board as the other, we cannot see why the same trust might not have been reposed in the one, as in the other; and we understood, and supposed all concerned understood at the time, that it was so done. No intimation, to the contrary, was ever given, until near the close of our last Course of Lectures, when several communications were received from members of the Board at Macon. The original arrangement was as follows. It will here be borne in mind, that, when this arrangement was made, our College was called *The Worcester Botanico-Medical College*, and not by the name which it has since adopted,—*The New England Botanico-Medical College*.

### **Worcester Botanico-Medical College.**

#### **ITS RECOGNITION BY THE SOUTHERN BOTANICO-MEDICAL COLLEGE.**

“Agreeably to previous notice, the Board of Trustees of the Southern Botanico-Medical College, met at the house of Dr. McIntyre. Present, Dr. P. McIntyre, Dr. J. Sinclair, Dr. I. M. Comings, Dr. L. Bankston,

and William M. Pope, by proxy in the hands of Dr. L. Bankston. There being a quorum present, the body proceeded to business.

"On motion of I. M. Comings, *Resolved*, That the following portions of the proceedings of the Faculty, passed on the 11th of May, 1846, be adopted as the proceedings and sense of this Board.

‘ *Forsyth, May 11th, 1846.*

‘ At a called meeting of the Faculty of the Southern Botanico-Medical College, held this day, Professors Comings, Cox, Bankston, and Fonerden were present, and Professors McIntyre and Cook represented by proxy. The meeting was organized by calling Professor Comings to the chair, who laid before the meeting two communications, received from Dr. C. Newton, of the Worcester Medical School, officially requesting that School to be recognized as a Branch of the Southern Botanico-Medical College. After considerable discussion on this subject, it was, on motion,—*Resolved*, That the Worcester Botanico-Medical College, (consisting of a body of approved Directors and Faculty,) be, and it is hereby recognized as a Branch of the Southern Botanico-Medical College, so as to grant the Faculty of said Branch authority to confer regular Degrees on such of their students as may be found worthy, on due examination, after attending two full Courses of Lectures in said Branch, or one in said Branch, and one in some other respectable Botanico-Medical College; provided, nevertheless, that all the Professors of said Branch shall be elected by the Trustees of the Southern Botanico-Medical College, and hold their offices at the will and pleasure of the said Trustees; and provided, further, that all nominations and removals of said Professors shall originate with the Directors of said Branch.’

"On motion, *Resolved*, That Calvin Newton, M. D., I. M. Comings, M. D., Wm. Henry Fonerden, M. D., and L. Bankston, M. D., be, and they are hereby elected to Professorships in the Worcester Botanico-Medical College.

"On motion, *Resolved*, That five dollars, for each graduate at the Branch College, be paid to the Faculty of the Mother College;—said Branch paying the expenses of her own parchments.

L. BANKSTON, *Secretary of Board of Trustees,*  
*Macon Geo., August 21st, 1846. of the S. B. M. College."*

In regard to this whole matter, we have thought the above explanation necessary; and, farther than this, we have nothing to say. The benefits which we have received, have all been honorably paid for, according to previous stipulation;—the compensation for those degrees which have been conferred being passed, in full, into the hands of the authorized agent of the Southern Botanico-Medical College. Still, we are grateful for these benefits, as acts of kindness, and should have been glad to have received *and paid for* more, had our friends felt themselves at liberty to adhere to the stipulated arrangement. The board of the Virginia Institute are less restricted by their charter; and, on the whole, as this Institute is nearer to us, it is perhaps best for the parties concerned, that the arrangement with the College at Macon be entirely abandoned, as it now is, and that we hereafter avail ourselves of the kindness of our Virginia friends, so long as kindness of this nature shall be needed. We hope,

and we expect, that the liberality or rather justice of the Old Bay State Legislature, will, the ensuing winter, place us where we shall have similar powers to impart, rather than to crave. Ed. Jour.]

PROF. NEWTON :—*Dear Sir*,—Please permit me to make the following remarks through your Journal of medicine.

On page 278, in the Southern Department of your paper, I observe Prof. Comings has taken the liberty of making a statement in relation to the Southern B. M. College, which is wholly untrue, so far as I have ever known or heard. And he proceeds therefrom to compromit our honor and respectation, in a manner, which seems to regard the acquisition of fees from a few students, whom he thinks to influence to the Virginia School, of more importance than the general advancement of Thomsonism. And,—what is a little strange and entirely a new system of logic to me,—after endeavoring to detract from us, in the next sentence he proceeds to build the reputation for orthodoxy of the Virginia Institute upon the Southern B. M. College. Listen to what he says. “We have accepted the chair of Theory and Practice in the Virginia College, and our friends, who are acquainted with *us*, know very well *our* orthodoxy. There are also two others of the Faculty who have been members of the Southern B. M. College. The students at Virginia, therefore, may be very sure, that they will have the fundamental doctrines of Thomson, as the basis of instruction.”

I will now proceed to notice and correct the mis-statement alluded to. I quote from Prof. Comings' article. “Our readers will observe, by reference to the New England Medical Eclectic, page 362, that ample arrangements were made with the Southern B. M. College to graduate our students; but, just before the examination of our Class, the Board of the College met, annulled their previous agreement, and refused to graduate our Class, unless we would give them *one half* of the graduating fees, instead of five dollars, as previously agreed. We trust, that this disregard of plighted faith, which our Georgia brethren have manifested, will be the last exhibition of avarice, which we shall see. Owing to the exigency of the case, we came near submitting to this unjust demand; but the liberality of the Virginia College has relieved us from our difficulties. We have no fears of a disappointment in these arrangements with the Virginia Board; as we have more confidence in the honor and integrity of our friends in that state.” The mis-statement is the charge, that we annulled our previous agreement, and demanded *one half* the graduating fees, instead of five dollars as previously agreed. The facts in the case are these. Upon application, the Southern B. M. College constituted the Worcester School of Medicine its branch, and elected, by request, three members of our Faculty with Prof. Newton, as the Faculty of said branch; and, in consequence of three-fourths of this branch Faculty consisting of members of the mother Faculty, our Board authorized them to confer degrees upon such students as were found worthy, under the restrictions of our charter; and to receive twenty-five dollars for each Degree conferred,—twenty dollars of which the branch Faculty were to retain, and the other five to be paid to us for trouble and expense incurred under the arrangement.



Before the opening of the Lectures in Worcester, Prof. Comings resigned his place in the mother Faculty. At the opening, the two other members who had belonged to the mother Faculty, and who held Professorships at Worcester, failed to attend. So the Faculty at Worcester consisted of Profs. Newton and Comings only. Under this prominent change of circumstances and character, our Board believed, that our charter would not allow them to authorize Profs. Newton and Comings to confer the Degrees, and they passed resolutions to that effect; but, desiring to afford them all the facilities in their power, they proposed to confer the Degrees at Macon, by Profs. Newton and Comings reporting to them a synopsis of their examination, if they should think the candidates worthy. In these or any other resolutions, however, the Board never said a word in regard to fees, leaving its division as it originally stood at five dollars. These resolutions, I immediately and officially forwarded to Profs. Newton and Comings; and, on their reception, Prof. Newton replied to them, desiring us to change our position so as to allow himself and Prof. Comings to confer the Degrees in Worcester; and *voluntarily proposed to give us one half of the graduating fees*, without this or any other division having been hinted at in either the resolutions or my accompanying remarks. I responded to his letter, showing that our charter would not allow us to do what they desired, but that we would take pleasure in conferring the Degrees in the only way which we could legally do so, if desired; and that his proposition in relation to fees was perfectly satisfactory. It is proper, however, for me, here to remark, that, in a private letter to Prof. Comings, previous to the passage of the above resolutions by the Board, while remarking upon the change deemed necessary by our Board, I remarked, that, in relation to the fees, we would make an honorable division with them,—(I quote from memory,)—which, of course, means such a division as the parties might deem right and fair. For, as we should have to meet in Macon for the purpose of conferring the Degrees, I thought something extra of the former arrangement would be proper. This remark possibly suggested the propriety to Prof. Newton of offering us *one half*.

Prof. Comings predicates, upon his mis-statement, the charge of avarice. Suppose we had demanded every dollar of the graduating fees;—is there another man in Christendom, who would have deemed it avaricious? What! avaricious for a chartered College to graduate the students of an unchartered Institution for less than they charge their own students. Tell us why we should graduate students educated at Worcester, for less than those instructed within our own walls? Is it not enough that we furnish you the facility of legal Degrees, without your putting yourselves to the trouble and expense of procuring a charter? The reason why we agreed to receive the small sum of five dollars, was we wished to advance the cause of Thomsonism in N. England. To this end, we were willing to give up most of our fees to help pay a Faculty for lecturing there. This was what we were willing to do.

I will now state what we did. At the request of the Worcester School, we sent Prof. Comings as our agent to Worcester, to confer Degrees on some five or six students whom we deemed qualified; and for the purpose of permanently establishing that branch; and we paid his expenses there

and back out of the graduating fees. Notwithstanding Prof. Comings intended visiting that section of country on private business at his own expense, still he required us to pay his expenses, preferring *then* that we should have all the honor of liberality and philanthropy, but *now*, that we shall be deemed avaricious and dishonorable. Surely Prof. Comings is not so far lost to truth and principle, as to have escaped a sensitive and deep-burning check while penning this article.

In relation to this whole branch matter,—and it has been no little trouble and expense,—we have not received the first dollar; and, so far as I know, not even thanks.

Prof. Newton, I think you will discover, from the spirit of this article, that I have no disposition to detract from any one, farther than is imposed upon me for the relief of our Institution, from the false position in which Prof. Comings has placed it. I, therefore, respectfully ask you to insert this article in your paper; and I would also prefer, that the resolutions and whole correspondence be inserted, that the public may see whether I have stated facts. At any rate, you will certainly correct the mis-statements of Prof. Comings' article; for you conducted the whole correspondence on your side, and therefore know them to be incorrect. For the advancement of your own interest, and that of the Worcester and the Virginia Institution, I feel the warmest solicitude, and desire their and your triumphant success in the advancement of Thomsonism. I wish each may have a hundred students at the coming session; and, could I say any thing to promote such an event, I should do so. With mongrelism, however, I have no fellowship or good wishes. To Prof. Comings, too, I am personally and professionally friendly, and would do any thing I deemed right, in my power, to advance any laudable effort he may engage in. And, by the way, the prospects of our own Institution are fair, Prof. Comings' insinuations to the contrary notwithstanding; and we shall still endeavor to turn out students, whose orthodoxy will not be doubted, to fill chairs in other Institutions, when required.

Respectfully Yours,

Zebulon, Sept. 22, 1847.

L. BANKSTON.

*From the Southern Medical Reformer.*

## REMARKS ON SALIVATION IN FEVER.

BY J. C. CROSS, M. D., PROFESSOR IN TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

While it is evident that mercurial cannot supersede, it is but right to admit that it may and does sometimes, suspend for a time, febrile action. We learn from Dr. Johnson, while speaking of the "Endemic Fever of Batavia," that he had the mortification to see his patients, "after being rescued from the jaws of death, every symptom of fever gone, and after being several days convalescent, with a relish for food, relapse one after the other, *as the soreness left their mouths*, and die almost to a man." The same author, speaking of *Intermittent Fever*, informs us, "that, in two ships of war, lying at the Bocca Tigris, (the Grampus and Caroline,) the bark was entirely expended on the great number of intermit-

tents. In this dilemma, we had no other resource than mercury; and this medicine invariably stopped the paroxysm as soon as the system was saturated; but it must not be concealed, that three-fourths of our patients, treated in this way, relapsed as soon as the effects of the mercury had worn off, and thus, after three, and, in a few instances, four successive administrations, so as to excite ptyalism!

This tendency of mercurial to suspend febrile action is not constant nor uniform, for the reverse takes place, probably as often, and therefore shows, that it is dependent on adventitious circumstances, and is not an inherent virtue of the article. Those cases of attack, to which we have already referred, as having fallen under our personal observation, go to show, that, in some circumstances, at least, febrile is capable, not only of suspending, but of superseding mercurial action; for in neither was there, after the subsidence of the fever, any recurrence of the salivation. Those cases of attack and relapse, to which allusion is made by Doctors M'Cabe and McArthur, render it highly probable, that mercurial may be suspended by febrile action. Furthermore, it may be stated, on the authority of Dr. Rush, that often salivation comes on during the intermission, and goes off during the exacerbation of fever.

Dr. Daniel of Savannah, in his "Treatise on Fever," speaks of a case of salivation that entirely ceased at the onset of the fever, and which re-appeared again, when the fever was arrested. From these facts we are led to conclude, that neither mercurial nor febrile action is able, under all circumstances, to exert a constant control over the other, and that, when either of them obtains the ascendancy, it is owing to peculiar and perhaps accidental circumstances, which of course cannot be foreseen, anticipated, or rendered subservient to the re-establishment of health.

If mercurial supersede febrile action, and if the former could be generally superinduced, mortality from fever would soon cease to be a subject of complaint or regret. The former supposition we already know to be gratuitous, and the latter we shall soon have reason to consider quite as unsusceptible of successful defence. Were we permitted to argue from the results of personal experience exclusively, we would say, that, while in the milder and more manageable cases of fever, the institution of salivation is not very difficult, in the more concentrated, obstructions exist, that are very often absolutely insurmountable. Should this prove true, two important practical conclusions must necessarily be established. In the first place, if, in the milder cases of fever, salivation, though easily produced, is the consequence and not the cause of the abatement of the symptoms, the attempt to induce it is unnecessary and unauthorized; and, secondly, if patients laboring under malignant fever cannot be salivated, it is wontonly cruel to sacrifice human life in an idle attempt to do that which experience has proved to be impracticable.

That there is a very striking difference between comparatively mild and malignant cases of fever, in regard to the facility with which the constitutional action of mercury is induced, the annals of fever furnish the most conclusive proof. "In the early part of my superintendence," says Dr. McArthur, "I gave the fairest trial to every mode of practice recommended by eminent practitioners, including the mercurial plan of treatment. But, in no instance, in the worst cases that terminated in

death, however protracted the fever might have been, could the mouth be affected; while, in the milder cases, where the fever subsided in 36 or 48 hours, the mercurial action became manifest within that period." On this point, the sentiments of Dr. Lempriere, who enjoyed much experience in the diseases of the West Indies, are not less decided or explicit. He says, that, "when relief is not obtained in yellow fever in the course of twenty-four hours of the attack, congestions form in the abdominal viscera and brain, to remove which, mercury was chiefly relied on; but it was found, that immense quantities of calomel were frequently exhibited without exciting any apparent action, owing probably to the torpid state of the absorbents." Dr. Chisholm himself, the celebrated author of mercurial treatment of fever, admits, "that there are circumstances in which, however, the utmost difficulty is experienced in obtaining this effect (salivation) from calomel, *and others in which the candid practitioner must acknowledge its insufficiency.*" He speaks of cases of fever in which as much as two thousand grains had been taken, without producing any impression on the system. Dr. Dickson, whose situation in the West Indies, combined many peculiar advantages, inasmuch as he derived information, not only from personal observation, but from the weekly reports of Surgeons of the Fleet, considers it altogether fruitless to attempt to produce salivation, in the first stage of the concentrated yellow fever. He therefore concludes, that the cases in which it has been accomplished, should be referred to a remitting or milder form of the disease. Mr. Boyle in his "Remarks on the Fevers of Italy," says, in allusion to calomel: "This susceptibility is indicated by the effects produced on the salivary glands. Some degree of pyalism follows, which affords the surest prognostic of a favorable termination; and the change produced, in all the symptoms, is generally quick and rapid. *It sometimes, however, happens, that the largest doses will not produce salivation, and, in such cases, the event is invariably fatal.*" In reference to salivation in fever, the experienced Dr. Jackson says, that it is often excited when the disease is mild; but, "on the contrary, where the disease is continued and ardent, or slow and creeping, with diminished sensibility of the skin, and impaired energy of the vascular system, enormous quantities of calomel either produce no sensible effect, or the gums become spongy and livid, but no salivation ensues. The event is then unfortunate, or life emerged in a gradual manner."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## Southern Department.

### LOBELIA, NO. III.

Now, *Mr. Editor*, from your intelligent readers I may presume, that I shall not hazard the imputation of dogmatism, if I lay down the position, that the virtues (*modus operandi*) of medicines can be definitely ascertain-

ed only by careful and accurate observation of their effects upon the human organism, in its highest state of health, including age, sex, temperament, calling, &c. Here, however in adopting this method of experience, we are, it seems, right in the face of an insuperable difficulty,—Dr. T's dogma,—viz, that lobelia inflata will produce no effect on a person in a state of perfect health,—“where there is no disease.” Is this demonstrable of any other article in the whole range of the *Materia Medica*? If not, by what special act of creative power has this remarkable exception been made? I leave these questions to be answered by the credulous admirers of our venerable Reformer.

The retention of this dogma in the different editions of the “*New Guide to Health*,” we are inclined to believe, must have been designed to serve some ulterior purpose;—perhaps as an expedient “*ad captandum vulgus*” to captivate the ignorant and credulous. We would impute it rather to a defect of candor, than to the lack of honesty or correct observation on the subject. I am fully persuaded, that there is not to be found, in any one of our Thomsonian colleges, a professor who inculcates the belief of that dogma. It is at variance with Dr. T's earliest experiments. Mark those which, as he tells us, he was wont to practice upon his playmates, when a boy; and, at a later period, when he administered an active lobelia emetic to his reaping companion in the harvest field, producing extreme relaxation and copious emesis, paleness of countenance, and profuse perspiration. Where then are the proofs in support of this dogma? We have the *ipse dixit* of our *master*, and that is enough! In support, then, of our present position, we have only to regret the very limited extent to which our Reformer carried his experiments on the healthy subject, inasmuch as, from these accidental experiments, has originated, in part at least, one of the most remarkable Reforms in medicine, on historical record.

Unfortunately, however for the noble cause in which Dr. T. took the initiatory step, its progress has been retarded, by a servile reliance, on the same source whence Allopathy has gained its knowledge of the virtues (modes operandi) of medicines, viz, “*ab usu in morbis*,”—solely from their effects in diseases. Common reflection and ordinary observation will impose upon any competent observer the irresistible conviction, that this process is subject to egregious errors. In whatever may consist the “*unity of disease*,” whether it be “*a loss or diminution of the vital powers*,” an “*exaltation or depression of them*,” or an *aberation* of the vital forces, its different forms are never perfectly similar. The experience of the most eminent practitioners assures us, that there never occurred in their practice two cases which they deemed absolutely identical. Consequently, even if we admit, that the observations on preceding cases had been accurate, it would be a matter of the greatest uncertainty, whether the remedy, which was salutary in another disease, would be equally well adapted to that which is now under treatment, although it might be of the same species. The age, sex, temperament, employment, or idiosyncrasy of the patient, remote causes, concomitant phenomena, &c. induce so many modifications in disease, that, under these circumstances, it is absolutely impossible to learn, with any tolerable accuracy, the changes produced by a medicine. Hence it is, that so many specifics and other

---

medicines employed against different diseases have failed, not only in Allopathic, but also in the Thomsonian practice.

---

## THE SECRECTIONS.

Some years since, before we knew any thing about magnetism, we had observed, by close attention to various fever patients and some affected with other forms of disease, that there was, in some cases, a superabundant accumulation of acid in the system, while, in other patients, we found the alkaline secretion to be very abundant. These opposite states of the human machine were indicated by the discharges from the skin, kidneys, stomach, and intestines, and were sufficiently indicated, by the smell alone. In our treatment, we were pleased to find, that, in proportion as we neutralized this acid, or alkaline state of the organization, we relieved our patient. In some fevers which manifested typhoid symptoms, and in which the whole surface was covered with a clammy alkaline perspiration, we have found the most speedy and permanent relief, by sponging with good pepper-sauce, and permitting the patient to drink freely of some acidulous beverage. On the other hand, when we have found the acid predominating, we have bathed the whole body in soap suds, or sponged it with an alkaline solution, and, using drinks of this character, we have seen the happiest results:—a few simple tonics, administered after this treatment, resulting in almost a miraculous cure.

We have been pleased, therefore, to find our observation scientifically explained by some late writers on the subject of human magnetism.

In *Sherwood's Motive Power, 2d Edition, Page 72d*, we have the following. "In pursuing this subject, we have found two different kinds of surfaces, disposed in two different ways, and thus covered by two different kinds of fluids; and it is easy to see, that there must have been some object, in this order and disposition of these different kinds of matter. On investigating the nature and qualities of these fluids, it is found, that the excretions from the skin and serous membranes are more or less acid, and those from the mucous membranes more or less alkaline. They are sometimes so strongly acid and alkaline as to excite the curiosity of the most common observer. The acid is found to be the muriatic, and the alkali, soda and muriate\* of soda, or common salt. The acids, and alkalies, which possess directly opposite properties, and have, at the same time, the strongest affinities for each other, are universally diffused in the earth, as well as in the vegetable and animal kingdoms. They constitute two great and principal divisions of matter, one of which, the acid, for the sake of distinction, is called negative matter, and the other, the alkaline, positive. Now it is satisfactorily ascertained, from repeated experiments, that each of these different kinds of matter gives out constantly an innate and different kind of force. It is also ascertained, in the same manner, that the alkaline or positive matter gives out the ne-

---

\* Our late nomenclatures give it Chloride of Soda.

gative force, and that the acidified gives out the positive. The positive matter, then, on the internal surfaces of the body and organs, is constantly giving out the negative force, and the negative matter, on the external surfaces of the body and organs, the positive force. Besides the immense quantities of these forces accumulated on the different surfaces, by the process of excretion, large quantities are constantly evolved in the decomposition of food, in the process of digestion, and in the decomposition of the air, in the process of breathing.

The reader who has seen a common galvanic battery, cannot fail to observe, that this arrangement of surfaces corresponds with that of the different metallic surfaces of the battery. The two forces are conducted from the two metallic surfaces to the poles of the battery, by two metallic wires; and, if we can now find conductors to convey the forces from the skin and different membranous surfaces to poles, the resemblance will be complete and satisfactory. In pursuing this subject, we first find numerous minute threads, called nerves, penetrating the little glands of the skin, serous and mucous membranes, and every fibre of a muscle. On tracing these nerves, we see them uniting together and increasing in size, in proportion to the distance from these surfaces, and, at length, conjoining with the brain and spinal cord. These forces are, therefore, conducted from the skin and membranous surfaces, and concentrated in the brain to form poles, or a motive power," &c.

These discoveries are really important to the medical practitioner, and, we have no doubt, will open a new field for investigation, and afford new light on the treatment of disease.

The following are the results of experiments lately made by the distinguished Mr. Donnie of Paris, which go to prove the above facts very conclusively. "1st. The whole of the tegumentary surface secretes an acid humor. 2d. The alimentary canal, from the mouth to the anus, except the stomach, secretes an alkaline mucus. 3d. The mucus and synovial membranes secrete an alkaline fluid. 4th. The external acid, and internal alkaline membranes of the body, represent the two poles of a galvanic pile, whose effects are appreciable by a galvanometer; for, if one of the conductors of this instrument be placed in contact with the mucous membrane of the mouth, and the other conductor be applied to the skin, the magnetic needle will be found to show a deviation of from fifteen to twenty or even thirty degrees, and the direction of the needle proves, that the mucous or alkaline membrane indicates a negative electricity, and the cutaneous or acid membrane indicates a positive electricity. 5th. *The acid humors of the system may become alkaline, and the alkaline may become acid, in a state of disease.*"

We trust the above remarks and quotations will interest our young practitioners, and induce them to verify these things by their own experience, as well as to make discoveries and improvements, in the application of those remedies, which will the most speedily effect the desired end.

There are certain alkalies that will neutralize certain acids completely, and others only partially. Hence, it is for us to discover those peculiar remedies which will act the best and most efficaciously on these different states of the system.

*Macon, Ga., Oct., 1847.*

(C.)

---

**ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT**  
OF THE  
**NEW ENGLAND**  
**BOTANICO-MEDICAL COLLEGE,**  
AT  
WORCESTER, MASS.,  
For the Term of 1848.

---

**FACULTY.**

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D.,  
*Professor of Pathology and Materia Medica.*

ISAAC M. COMINGS, M. D.,  
*Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Obstetrics.*

JAMES M. BUZZELL, M. D.,  
*Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.*

HENRY G. DARLING, M. D.,  
*Professor of Physiology, Chemistry, and Botany.*

---

**LECTURES AND EXPENSES.**—The Third Annual Course of Lectures in this College will commence on the first Thursday in March, 1848, and will continue fourteen weeks. The fee for a full course is \$50, in advance, with a matriculation fee of \$3. Of those who have attended two full Courses in other Medical Colleges, \$10 only will be required. Graduates will be charged, in addition, \$25 for a diploma. Good board can be had for \$2, or \$2.25 per week.

---

**CONSULTATION OF TEXT-BOOKS.**—The text-books recommended will be consulted *eclectically*;—*authoritatively*, indeed, so far as they are de-



scriptive of actual conditions, as in Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and the like; but otherwise with careful discrimination,—the fundamental peculiarity of what is taught in this College being, that there is no necessity for employing poisons of any kind as medicinal agents, and that the object, in exhibiting any remedy, should be to sustain and not to depress the vital powers.

The following are the principal authors recommended:—

*On Anatomy*—Wilson, Quin, Wistar, Paxton, and Harrison.

*On Surgery*—Pancoast, Druitt, Liston, Cooper, Velpeau, and Castle.

*On Physiology*—Carpenter, Oliver, Muller, and Dunglison.

*On Pathology*—Gross, Gallup, and Watson.

*On Materia Medica*—Pereira, Wood and Bache, Beach, Mattson, Howard, Smith, and Thomson.

*On Auscultation and Percussion*—Laennec, Williams, Gerhard, Jackson, and Watson.

*On Theory and Practice*—Watson, Mackintosh, Elliotson and Stewartson, Mattson, Howard, Smith, and Thomson.

*On the Institutes of Medicine*—Gallup and Curtis.

*On Obstetrics and Diseases peculiar to Women and Children*—Churchill, Eberle, Chailly, Maygrier, Velpeau, Beach, and Curtis.

*On Chemistry*—Gray, Silliman, and Turner.

*On Botany*—Eaton, Bigelow, Gray, and Wood.

**REQUISITES FOR GRADUATION.**—The course of study required by this College is intended to occupy three full years; and candidates for the regular degree of M. D. must have attended two full Courses of Medical Lectures in some established Medical Institution, one of which must have been in this College. They must present satisfactory testimonials of good moral character; must have a competent literary education; and must well sustain an examination in the various branches of medical study, as contained in our Course of Lectures, and in the text-books which we recommend, or equivalents.

**AUTHORITY FOR CONFERRING DEGREES.**—*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors of the Scientific and Eclectic Medical Institute of Virginia authorize the Faculty of the Botanico-Medical College at Worcester, Massachusetts, to grant the diplomas of this Institution to such persons as they shall consider qualified to receive them;—for and in consideration of which, the Dean of the Faculty of the Worcester College shall pay to the Treasurer of this Institute the sum of five dollars for each diploma conferred.

Petersburgh, Va., Aug. 5th, 1847.

THOS. S. PLEASANTS,  
Secretary.

**ADVANTAGES ENJOYED.**—A considerable amount of funds has already been received and appropriated in the purchase of Anatomical and Chemical Apparatus, Books, etc.; and other additions, during the current year,

will be made. The services of four Professors are now secured; and, if the number of the next attending Class shall warrant, an additional Professor will be appointed. The facilities now enjoyed at this College are ample in all the departments. Dissections, surgical operations, illustrations, and experiments, are conducted in the most advantageous and instructive manner.

---

**INTEREST SOLICITED.**—The friends of the College are respectfully and earnestly requested to preserve and forward to the Anatomical Cabinet interesting specimens of Morbid Anatomy, and to favor the respective Professorships with such preparations as are adapted to facilitate illustrative teaching.

---

**COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.**—The Professor of Pathology and Materia Medica will endeavor to show what alterations the several tissues of the body undergo by disease; to point out the difference between the Physiological and the Pathological condition of the different organs and functions of the system; and to explain the method of exploring the body by auscultation, percussion, and palpation;—also, to illustrate the nature of the various agents most suitable to be employed in the removal of disease; to describe, as fully as is known, their *modus operandi*; and to explain the reasons of preference which the physician should have in his choice of remedies. The principal articles of the Materia Medica, both crude and prepared, will be exhibited, so as to enable the students to become practically acquainted with the agents which they are to use in their profession.

The Lectures by the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, will embrace general, descriptive, and surgical anatomy, with operative surgery. It is designed, in this department, to give a thorough and faithful description of the entire structure of the human body, and to explain the different surgical operations, as they are performed by the most eminent and scientific surgeons of the present day. For this purpose, a manikin, skeletons, accurate drawings, plates, &c. will be exhibited, together with full demonstrations upon the dead subject. Weekly examinations of surgical diseases and necessary operations, performed in presence of the Class, will be gratuitous. The Professor in this department is a practical surgeon and a skilful operator; and those afflicted with surgical diseases may abide the decisions of his judgment, and commit themselves to his treatment with the utmost confidence.

In the department of Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Obstetrics, the Professor will illustrate the diagnoses of the different diseases, mark the difference between intellectual and physical signs, and point out the most suitable mode of applying the appropriate remedies. He will explain, philosophically and fully, the reasons for rejecting, as medicines, all poisons, mineral and narcotic, and prove incontestibly the paramount efficacy of innocuous agents in every malady to which flesh is heir. He will also show the laws which govern conception, gestation, and parturition; the object of the different kinds of aid required in labor; the proper office of the accoucheur; and the nature of such diseases as are peculiar to women and children.

By the Professor of Physiology, Chemistry, and Botany, will be taught the appropriate office of the various organs of the human system, the circumstances under which only every function can be preserved in a healthy condition, and the various laws which govern the animal economy. He, also, will be assisted, in practical illustration, by an elegant French manikin,—that wonderful exhibition of art, by which a knowledge of every part of the human body is greatly facilitated and most indelibly impressed. The principles of chemistry will be illustrated by competent apparatus and suitable experiments. Botany will be taught systematically and scientifically; and specimens, illustrating the nature and classification of plants, will be exhibited. The application and importance, also, both of chemistry and botany to the practice of medicine, will be distinctly enforced.

---

### GRADUATED,

AT THE CLOSE OF THE SECOND COURSE OF LECTURES,  
June 9th, 1847.

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Allen E. A.,        | Boston, Mass.,      |
| Allen John,         | Providence, R. I.,  |
| Bassett Aaron,      | Worcester, Mass.,   |
| Brooks Nathaniel,   | Saco, Maine,        |
| Chapman Carlos,     | Springfield, Mass., |
| Cummings Royal,     | Northbridge, “      |
| Dickens Job T.,     | Haverhill, “        |
| Hammond Adin H.,    | Woodstock, Vt.,     |
| Hooker John,        | Worcester, Mass.,   |
| Robertson F. K.,    | Cambridge, N. Y.,   |
| Seger Alexander W., | Chittenden, Vt.,    |
| Vining Thomas S.,   | Coleraine, Mass.,   |
| Wallace Merrick,    | Gardner, “          |
| Wheeler F. Henry,   | Claremont, N. H.    |

---

### HONORARY DEGREES

Were also conferred on the following gentlemen who had not attended the Course.

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bangs Ebenezer B., | Saco, Maine,       |
| Chapman S. B.,     | Winchester, N. H., |
| Holt Jacob,        | Boston, Mass.,     |
| Strong Asa B.,     | New York, N. Y.    |

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., NOVEMBER 1, 1847. No. 21.

---

Home Department.

THE CONTRAST.

[We publish but few out of the many testimonials which we from time to time receive, in favor of the excellence of our paper. We are gratified, however, that our hasty and imperfect labors are so highly appreciated. The circulation of the paper is extending among the more reflecting and intelligent portions of the community; and, we are happy to say, among those who have a high and delicate view of obligation to the editor and publisher. There are those, we have found, who seem mightily to enjoy the reading of a medical paper, if it is only well filled with bitter invective against "the regulars," and sarcastic cant and slang. They care not how coarse the clubs are, nor how awkwardly used, if the beating only goes on lustily. For the pugnacity of some such the articles contained in our paper are altogether too tame. They have no relish for simple, unvarnished statements of facts in mal-practice, however impressive and convincing these facts may be. They want every article got up in the most over-wrought manner, and crowded with harsh and denunciatory expressions. Only let a piece be headed "Horrid, unwarrantable, murderous quackery," and let a liberal share of it consist of boisterous declamation against Allopathic Practitioners, and with them it is of but little consequence whether the scene portrayed ever existed or not, or whether one logical and sound argument is employed in refutation of medical error. Now, we frankly confess, we have but little care to please this class of readers, as we do not wish to pander to their corrupt taste, and we regard their interest in the cause which we have espoused, as

worse than useless. Besides, if we look to the matter of pecuniary aid in carrying on a commendable warfare against error, they are much like the Irishman's description of the flea, "When you put your finger where he is, he is not there;"—when you have given your time, and labor, and money to get out a volume for their reading, your equivalent or partial equivalent, in the shape of a dollar, is wanting. Their policy is about as cool, and calculating, and honorable, as that of a true son of Hibernia, who, a short time since, came to the Post Office in this place, to inquire for a letter. His inquiry being answered, he requested the clerk in the Office to read to him the contents, being himself unable to read. Having listened to what the letter contained, he took it, and turned to go away, when he was reminded, that there was an amount of postage to be paid. "Indeed," said Pat, "and, *in fath*, I believe I'll not take it." If this is an *Irish* trick, *Yankees* have such as are very analogous. They will read a paper, a whole year, and be loud in their acclamations in its favor; but, when they have understood the contents, as Pat did those of his letter, they think, in truth, that they will not take it. This has been almost literally true with some of the readers of our paper. They have allowed it to be sent them, till the year has become far advanced, when, of late, they have concluded, that they can do without it. Those who have done so, it is proper to say, are generally in the number of subscribers whose names we received from Dr. Colby. Others, from the same list, have acted more honorably. They have, at an earlier period, requested us to discontinue the paper; but, out of the *four hundred and seventy-five* names which we received, for a stipulated pecuniary consideration, from the source above-mentioned, comparatively few remain, at present, on our list. In making this remark, it becomes us to say, lest we shall be misunderstood, that, to a few personal friends, the paper has been sent, as a matter of gratuity. We, of course, have no allusion to those readers. We only describe, in general, a somewhat prevalent condition of things, among those who *would be* accounted reformers.

On the whole, however, we have not the slightest misgivings in regard to the cause which we have espoused. Last year it cost us \$100.00, out of pocket, besides our editorial labor, to publish the paper, then under the name of the Eclectic. The present year, we shall probably receive as much for personal services, as we, last year, sacrificed; and, from the gradual but uniform increase in the number of substantial *paying* subscribers, we have reason to anticipate, next year, a competent if not a liberal patronage. So much for the favorable change which has been wrought in public sentiment, in less than two years past.

It is well known, that heretofore several Botanic publications, after an ephemeral existence, have ceased to be, from want of patronage. When we commenced our paper, we resolved, that it should be conducted on a plan, quite different, in some important respects, from any on which Botanic papers generally had been conducted. We refer to its literary character, the dress of its sentiments, its exhibition of professional science, and its manner and spirit of managing controversy. We believed, that a paper, taking ground suitably elevated in these particulars, would be sustained, as soon as its character and value should become sufficiently known; and we are pleased now to have so good evidence, that our

views were not erroneous. We solicit a still increasing patronage, from those who desire to see a rightly educated medical Profession. Let us have the men in our ranks fully qualified for their work, and the contrast in the number of lives saved, by the Botanic and by the Allopathic Practice, will be even greater than in the instance given by our correspondent below. Ed. Jour.]

*Dear Sir* :—I hope to be able to send you a number of subscribers from this place soon, as the Reformed Practice is fast gaining ground here, and more especially amongst the common class of mechanics, like myself. I have shown the paper to a number, and they like it very much; and I hope they will soon realize its value, by subscribing, and having it in their families. We have now three Botanic Physicians in this place, and they all have had as much as they could attend to, for the last three months, and have, as yet, lost but two patients; while, on the other hand, we have had from three to five funerals a day, for the last six months, where the regulars have attended. This certainly speaks well for the Botanic Practice.

### POLYPI NASI—POLYPUS OF THE NOSE.

*PROF. NEWTON* :—*Dear Sir*,—I have to make mention, through the Journal, of the excrescence called polypus. Some writers, for perspicuity, make three divisions of this morbid growth; but, for all practical purposes, the name and existence of the protuberance is sufficient. The most common division, among writers, is into three species as follows: 1st, the fleshy polypus;—2d, the malignant polypus;—3d, polypus of the mucous membrane. These species are confined to the nasal cavities. Besides these, it is a well known fact, that such excrescences do exist in other cavities of the body. But I would only speak, on this occasion, of one of those found in the nasal cavity, that of the second species, viz. malignant polypus.

Recently, I was called some thirty or forty miles up the Dead River, a branch of the Kennebec, to visit a lady, with a polypus of this kind in the left nasal cavity. It had been in progress of growth about a year; and, at this time, filled the entire anterior naris, or first part of the nasal passage. She had submitted to the examination of Dr. Palmer of the old school belonging in Anson, and had the written opinion of Dr. Lynd of the old school belonging to Norridgwood. Dr. Palmer, after examination, concluded, that, if she would come and stop with him a week, he could succeed in removing it with instruments. Dr. L. advised, that instruments should not be resorted to, as it would be dangerous; but recommended the application of errhines and lotions. Neither of these courses found acceptance with the gentleman or his wife, and they finally thought proper to send for me. I had never seen the excrescence before the evening I arrived there; and, it being too late for attending to it that evening, I deferred the examination till morning. I then found it in the condition above-

named. The attachment was far back upon the ala or wing of the left side of the nose, and the growth had proceeded posteriorly, leaving it difficult of access for operation. However, by having the lady's head in a safe and steady situation, supported by a corner pilaster and the husband's aid, I proceeded, with an elevator and single tenaculum, to change its location; and, in five minutes from the time of preparation to operate, it was out free and smooth. The blood was stayed by means of a little gum kino tintured in acetic acid or simple vinegar. I here introduce the active tincture of the official Gummi Gambiense, because I have found it one of the best styptics of my acquaintance. This lady is now doing well; as I have had word directly from her of late, and learn, that she has had no repetition of the hæmorrhage, with which previously to the operation, she was frequently afflicted. A few days subsequent to this operation, I was called to a lady, who, in leaving a carriage, by miss-step, had broken the fibula; or outer bone of the left leg; within about an inch of the ankle joint. We had one of the old-school physicians present to assist; and, in his presence, the husband of the lady said to me, in reference to the case of polypus, "I thought that Thomsonians never did any cutting." I replied to the gentleman, that I usually performed whatever surgical operations came under my care; but that our "friends,"—the old-school physicians,—would represent to the public, that we were not skilled in this department. Then, turning to the old gentleman, the physician, I asked, if, in the practice of thirty or forty years, he had ever removed a polypus of any description. He answered, that he had not.

It is true, that my knowledge of Anatomy and Surgery is limited, compared with what I desire it might be. Still, I have often thought, while striving, in my humble sphere, to comfort the afflicted, that I would not, for any consideration, be deprived of what knowledge I have of these necessary branches of a thorough medical education, and more particularly have I felt this, while discharging the duties of Surgeon to the 2d Reg., 2d Brig., and 8th Div. of the militia of our State, for a few years past. I have felt, that, without anatomical and surgical knowledge, I should be ill fitted to discharge the duties which necessarily devolve upon me. Let us all, as far forth as we are capable, strive to open the way and encourage men, preparing for the arduous duties of successful practitioners, to be "*thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" Herein I enclose, for you and the public, or such as will avail themselves of the benefits of the preparation, a recipe for laxative pills, which I think of a superior quality.

Yours, &c.,

Industry, Sept., 1847.

W. C. STAPLE.

#### RECIPE.

Take of black root four ounces; cayenne and mandrake each half an ounce. Make an extract of these together by moderate warmth, straining during the time of preparing, and bringing the substance to the consistence of tar. Then add of pulverized gum gamboge, and natural extract of lobelia, equal parts, one-tenth as much as there is of the above compound extract, previous to making into pills. Work into the mass from five to ten drops of oil of peppermint.

## TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE REFORMED PRACTICE OF MEDICINE BY DR. BASSETT.

[ We have received the following, in the shape of a printed Circular, enclosed in a letter mailed at New York. The letter is a perfect blank within ; but, from the hand-writing of the superscription, we can *guess* its origin. We suppose the communication to be intended for publication ; and we give it a place in our columns, for two reasons. We think, that *somebody* in New York will be gratified by seeing an eulogium of Dr. Beach thus presented to the public ; and we ourselves are willing, that the true position of those who are directly engaged in conducting Periodicals claiming to be *Simon-pure* in Thomsonism, should be generally known. Our own *orthodoxy* in the Botanic cause has been so often questioned, that we feel entirely at liberty to act the part of a censor, and call to account any one whose derelictions from true *physo-medical* principles are manifest. Ed. Jour.]

DOCT. BEACH :—

*Venerable Sir*,—Impelled by a strong desire, I take up my pen to write you a few lines, notwithstanding that you have probably no knowledge of such a person as myself, and I have no acquaintance with you, except through your fame and medical writings. But, being engaged in my humble sphere, in laboring for the same great end with yourself in Medical Reform, I hope you will not deem it an intrusion to devote a few moments in reading my epistle.

For the last ten years my mind and time have been devoted mostly to the study any practice of Medicine. I commenced study with the view of following the Regular or Allopathic practice ; but, before I had finished my course of study, by chance I heard a course of Lectures, by Dr. Draper of Philadelphia, advocating the system of Dr. Thomson, and I thought it so much superior to the old one, that I went immediately and joined myself with Dr. John Thomson, son of Samuel Thomson, both of whom have since deceased, and continued with him, until I came here six years since.

Before coming here, my observations and experience in the Thomsonian practice had been confined mostly to chronic diseases, in an Infirmary ; and I commenced practice with high hopes, believing that Thomsonism was the Alpha and Omega of Medical Science. But alas ! I was disappointed. Complicated cases of disease presented themselves, in which experience and philosophy both taught me, that the Thomsonian practice was utterly inadequate to meet the exigency, or often, what was worse, that, if followed out, it was absolutely deleterious to the patient. Necessity thus drove me to regard Thomsonism as imperfect ; and I sought and read with avidity every thing that came in my way that treated on the subject of medicine. I threw off the shackles of prejudice, and laid my mind open to truth from any quarter. Occasionally I received a ray of light, and found a philosophic remedy, which I did not fail to make use of ; but not, till your "**AMERICAN PRACTICE**" fell into my hands, did I find any thing that at all satisfied my cravings after medical truth. I am familiar with the works on Botanic practice of Thomson, Howard, Smith, Curtis, Worthy, Comfort, Mattson, and, in short, all of any note in the United States ; but I unhesitatingly affirm, that, in my



opinion, made up from a critical and practical observation, yours is far superior to them all combined.

I am assistant editor of a medical periodical in your State, bearing the name "Thomsonian," but it is not because of my devotion to that name, that I labor in that field.

My practice is large, extending over a section of country twenty or thirty miles on each side of the village, besides having my share at home, and my success is sufficient to cause its constant increase. And, since adopting your principles, I find it a delightful occupation; where before it was irksome and unpleasant.

Hoping you may long live to do good, I remain,

Most respectfully, yours,

M. F. BASSETT.

### A PRACTITIONER'S SUCCESS.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir,*—Though I am a stranger to you personally, yet I am with you in the field of medical reform. I have been laboring in this important department for ten years. You indeed can but conjecture, that I must be an humble laborer in some remote corner, as you have not received any communication from me. My apology for so long remaining silent is the devotion of my time in discharging my professional duties, attending to the wants and demands of the sick, and to my domestic and pecuniary affairs; the latter of which have too much called my attention from the subject of medicine, especially for the last three years. I have only time now to briefly say, that, notwithstanding all the embarrassments which tend to impede my progress, and the opposition which I and all other Thomsonian practitioners must experience, such has been my success in alleviating the miseries of the sick, that I have cured many of my fellow beings who have been abandoned, by the most skilful of the Faculty, to die. Though the task of a faithful practitioner is indeed hard, yet I rejoice, that I have engaged in the work of medical reform; nor could I feel justified to lay down the weapons of war, that have served me so well, and been so successful in combating every species of disease which human flesh is heir to,—so successful in wresting my fellow men from the jaws of death, and from what is still worse, the innumerable miseries inflicted by the poisoning practice of the medical Faculty. I feel like marching forward. Although an humble soldier, I have been able to enlist vast numbers in the Thomsonian ranks. The universal success that has attended my practice for ten years past, and my humble lectures, occasionally given upon the Thomsonian theory and practice, compared with those of the old school, have, I trust, been the means of opening the eyes of hundreds who were blinded by the popular prejudices, which have originated from the long continued fashions and customs of the Faculty. I am the last man that would boast of ability. I account for my success, only by faithfulness and perseverance in administering Thomsonian remedies, and

advocating Samuel Thomson's fundamental principles and doctrines. Admitting that he, like other men, was fallible and liable to err; yet I believe, that his system of medical practice stands unrivaled, and that his fundamental principles are correct. But improvement may be made. Practitioners may and should be educated in every branch relating to their profession. Ignorance too much prevails among Thomsonian physicians; yet learned ignorance, such as is usually taught in our medical Institutions, is still more to be dreaded. We want education and knowledge, combined with truth and common sense, unconnected with error, however popular. And, Sir, I am happy to learn, that your College at Worcester is likely to be of the right stamp. I hope, that it will be an Institution which will serve as a fountain of medical knowledge from which will issue pure unadulterated streams,—a fountain that will supply every branch of medical science. Such an Institution the public good demands; and you have my best wishes, that yours shall be sustained.

In conclusion, I will just say, that I have some interesting cases to report, and shall give them attention soon.

Yours, &c.,

Gorham, Sept. 4th, 1847.

JOHN SANBORN.

### EUPATORIUM PURPUREUM.

PROF. NEWTON:—I avail myself of this opportunity of calling the attention of the Botanic friends to an herb which, in my humble opinion, has been very much under-rated by many practitioners, and entirely neglected by others. I am fully convinced, that, if the medical virtues of this herb had been fully known, they would have been spoken of more highly and more frequently than heretofore.

My attention was first directed to it by Dr. B. G. Miller, (now of Hill-grove, Ia.,) in 1844; since which time, I have used it in various forms of disease, and it has seldom failed to produce the most salutary results. Indeed, I look upon it, as being amongst the best medicines in the Botanic Materia Medica, and one which should have a place in the medicine-case of every practitioner in the land. I do not, however, consider it "a specific" for any one or more forms of disease; but it may be used with profit in cases where a diuretic, diaphoretic, emmenagogue, deobstruent, stimulant, or tonic is indicated. If taken warm and in large quantities, it will sometimes produce emesis (vomiting); but, perhaps, it has no direct tendency to produce that effect. The root is the part most generally used, but the flowers and leaves may be used with profit, though, perhaps, they are somewhat different in their medical properties from the root. The proper quantity for a dose varies, of course, according to the temperament, &c., of the patient; but from two to three table-spoonfuls of the powdered root, taken in decoction, is an ordinary dose for an adult; though much smaller doses are sometimes sufficient, and much larger have been given, without producing any evil effects. I will give a de-

scription of the herb, that those who have not tried, may try it, at once, for themselves, in order to test its virtues, as it is now in bloom, and may be readily found, wherever it grows, by examining the following description.

Class 17th, Syngenesia. Order 1st, equalis. Genus, Eupatorium, Species, Purpureum.

It grows commonly in wetish ground, or near streams, though sometimes in high loamy land. Root perennial (living more than two years), long, fibrous (threadlike), white or brownish colored, stems generally many from the same root, from three to eight feet high (generally from four to six feet), hollow, round, smooth, of a purple color, bearing from four to seven leaves, whorled (growing round the stalk) at each joint, broad, petiolate (having long stalks), lanceolate (compound of lance and egg shaped), serrate (notched), rugosely (wrinkled) veined, petiole branched on the under side of the leaf, scabrous (rough). The flowers appear from August to October, purple or pale reddish florets (little flowers), many on an eight leaved calyx (flower cup). The vulgar names are, Queen of the meadow, Boneset, Gravel root, Purple Thoroughwort, Purple Boneset, Joepye, Seven Sisters, &c., &c. There is a variety of the same species, answering to the above description, with the exception, that the flowers are white, instead of purple as above.

Fincastle, Ohio, Oct. 5th, 1847.

S. E. CAREY.

## CASE OF CANKER AND TYPHUS FEVER.

August 18th, 1847, I was called upon to visit a Mrs. D., who had a nursing child, four and a half months old. She had been in feeble health ever since confinement; was troubled occasionally with canker in her mouth and diarrhœa; had done nothing for it; and came to Lynn to spend a few days to recruit her health; but was taken worse,—the canker getting into the stomach and bowels, and the diarrhœa assuming an aggravated form.

She had been attended by the most skilful Physician of this place—(at least he is *thought* to be such—) and had also called one from Boston. They both agreed, however, that she was “*all filled up with canker, and that nothing could be done to relieve her*,” at the same time, ordering a tea-spoonful of brandy to be taken occasionally, and enemas of starch and laudanum (the common practice among the physicians of this town for any unusual looseness of the bowels). But it was to no effect,—she continued to grow worse.

I found her in the following condition, viz., lying on her back, with the limbs extended; hands and feet of an icy coldness; skin dry and cold; lips of a bright scarlet; mouth partly open (her tongue being so badly swollen that she could not shut it); tongue very thickly coated and yellow; great difficulty of swallowing; breathing deep and heavy; eyes wide open and staring,—she taking no notice of any thing, but appear-

ing to be completely in a torpid state. The evacuations from the bowels occurred involuntarily; about every half hour, composed of blood and mucus. I found, on examination, that her flesh was very sore; the bowels were exceedingly tender, but not swollen; and large patches of a purple color were on the bowels and extremities; pulse 100, and feeble. Under these *encouraging* circumstances I commenced with her, by placing steaming stones at the feet and sides, and bathing often with warm saleratus water. Enemas of strong cancer tea, with a large proportion of cayenne and lobelia, were administered every half hour,—some of which were retained an hour or more. I also gave her a similar preparation to take; but the difficulty of swallowing was so great, that she took but little. She continued thus for 48 hours, when the cancer began to make its appearance, in the fecal discharges, in large flakes. The evacuations of urine became copious; the tongue began to clean; the swallowing became not so difficult; in short, the symptoms, grew every way, more favorable, except the diarrhœa, which continued unabated and very fetid. The third day, the lobelia began to take effect, vomiting her freely, completely prostrating her, equalizing the circulation, and producing a free perspiration. The fourth day, she was entirely cleansed of cancer; and a reaction of the system now took place, accompanied with fever of the Typhoid type. The tongue was now *clean and very dry*, the pulse 120, full, and strong. I continued the stimulants, antispasmodics, and cancer teas, as before, with gum tea, slippery elm, chicken tea, flour porridge, and *cold water*. The last she called for, as soon as she was able to speak, which was not till after she had taken the emetic. After the fever set in, in other words, from the time reaction took place, I was unable to raise the least moisture on the surface. Neither cayenne, lobelia, nor steam would have any effect, until the seventh day, when a determination to the surface was affected, which at once checked the evacuations, from the bowels and kidneys,—the fever with the diarrhœa gradually subsiding for eleven days, when I put her on a tonic treatment, and she was soon well.

Lynn, Sept., 1847.

R. S. ROGERS.

Thomsonian Botanic Physician.

REMARKS.—She has no recollection of any circumstance that transpired during the first five days after I was called to her.

The tongue was not coated during the whole course of the fever, but of a deep red color and *very dry*,—which indicated to me the proper mode of treatment, and pointed to that which was my main dependence from the first, viz. pure stimulants,—cayenne being my chief anchor of hope. The success has operated unfavorably for the *skillful* physician mentioned above. When informed, by the husband of the lady, that his services would not be required any further, and that I had been called: he told him, that no physician of any experience would undertake such a case. It was utterly impossible for her to get well,—that all which was done for her would only have a tendency to hurry her out of the world,—and that, if I had undertaken the case, it was mere presumption, and he, the husband, would have cause to regret it.” *Perhaps he will.*

R. S. R.

## TYPHUS FEVER AND ERYSIPELAS.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—I send you the following report of a case of typhus fever and erysipelas, which you are at liberty to publish, in your valuable Journal, if you think proper. I saw the patient (a female aged 21), for the first time, on the 4th of December, 1846. I found her laboring under the following symptoms. Pulse small and hard, and about 130 per minute; tongue very tremulous and covered with a thick brown coat in the centre; edges clean and very red; skin hot and dry, with the exception of the extremities, which were cold; violent pain in the head and back; urine scanty and high colored; pain and tenderness of the bowels, with a tendency to diarrhoea; and great prostration and tremulousness of the muscular system. At this time, there was no appearance of erysipelas, although the patient had previously been subject to attacks of it. For a week or ten days before I saw her, she had been troubled with pain and dizziness of the head, and almost a total loss of appetite.

I gave her an emetic; and, after that, a laxative, followed by sudorific powders once in three hours. The second day, I found her a little more comfortable in some respects, but very restless; tongue darker-colored and very dry; face flushed and somewhat swollen; and a strong tendency to delirium. Ordered the powders to be continued, and a decoction of the myrica gale to be applied to the face;—also the body to be bathed frequently in warm saleratus water. The third day, I found the patient more delirious; face more swollen; and bowels much swollen and very tender. Repeated the emetic, continued the powders and wash as before, and ordered the bowels to be bathed in liniment;—also enemas once in six hours. Gave, for a drink, a decoction of myrica gale and asarum canadense. The fourth and fifth days, I found her about the same, except the swelling and inflammation of the face, which were increasing. The same medicine was continued, with the exception of the emetic. The sixth and seventh days, face very badly swollen and blistered; tongue cracked and very dry; dark incrustations about the lips and teeth; difficult deglutition; constant delirium; continual picking of the bed-clothes, or catching at imaginary objects; and petechiæ on various parts of the body. For the next 8 or 10 days, the same symptoms were present, and the same treatment, with slight variation, was continued. At the end of this time, the patient began to amend; and, in a short time, recovered her usual health. During some part of her sickness, her friends manifested much anxiety for her safety, and I must confess, that, if I had not had the utmost confidence in the efficiency of the medicine used, I too should have given her up to die. I have the fullest confidence in our simple vegetable remedies. I am one of those who think, that there is no necessity for any one to die of fever, where our remedies are seasonably and skilfully applied. Within the last five years, I have treated hundreds of cases of the various forms of fever, but I have never yet lost the first patient, where I was the first and last to prescribe for him.

In the 19th No. of your Journal, I noticed a report of a case of ship fever from C. C., in which he remarks,—“What may appear a little singular to some Thomsonians who reside in the great city of notions, in the treatment of this case, is the fact, that no castor oil nor other cathartic was used.”

As C. C. very truly remarks, the term cathartic has a very broad signification; and it is very difficult to draw the line of demarcation, between those articles of medicine which may be termed cathartic and those which are called laxative. In the case reported by him, he says he gave a course of medicine followed by a mild laxative; but he does not say of what the laxative was composed. Now it is admitted by all, I believe, that castor oil is a cathartic medicine; but will not a small portion of it operate upon the bowels as a mild laxative? and, if so, may not castor oil, in small doses, be considered a laxative. The eupatorium perfoliatum is considered one of our best laxatives; but may it not be given in sufficient quantities to produce catharsis, to as great an extent, as a moderate dose of castor oil? The same may be said of many other articles of our Materia Medica. If the above inference be true, may not a large dose of an article, which may properly be called a laxative, operate as a cathartic, as effectually as a moderate dose of castor oil, or many other articles which are admitted to be cathartics? If a quantity of a laxative medicine be given to a patient enough to produce catharsis, does not that patient take a cathartic, as much as he would, if he took castor oil, or any other cathartic, in sufficient amount to produce the same effects? Admitting this to be true, might not our friend C. C. consider an article a cathartic, which some one else would consider only a laxative; and *visa versa*? In both cases, the effect produced will depend upon the *quantity*, as well as the *quality* of the medicine given. I am probably as much opposed to giving cathartics, in the common acceptation of the term, as C. C. or any one else. Still, I do not know where the dividing line can be drawn, between the different articles of medicine called laxative and those called cathartic, so as to satisfy every one what articles are and what are not cathartics.

Mr. Editor, I am a constant reader of your paper, and should read, with pleasure, any communications, from any of your correspondents, which may tend to throw light on this subject. I am an inquirer after truth and sound principles; and am always ready and willing to abandon my position, when convinced that I am in the wrong.

Nashua, N. H., Oct. 21st, 1847.

N. P. C.

## TOO BAD.

In this bad world, there are many things which are quite too bad. Among others, it is quite too bad to make an editor responsible for the previous sins of his brother editors, and to refuse to pay, in due season, the price of one's subscription, simply because other and irresponsible persons, in conducting a paper, have disappointed their subscribers, and stopped short, in the publication, before the close of a volume. Especially, is it too bad, when one gets *scarcely a nine-pence* for all his editorial labor, the labor of mailing a thousand copies of his paper semi-monthly, &c. &c., for subscribers to allow him to struggle along, during the

year, almost single-handed, in his work of maintaining truth and science, without sending him the cheering encouragement which a single dollar is capable of affording. At least, according to our experience, these things are not very good.

Delinquent subscribers, the first year of our Journal is almost complete, and we are in *distressing* need of what is now due from you. We only ask an equality of burden in a common cause,—the promotion of the public good. The payment of a dollar requires but little exertion or sacrifice, on your part; but, on ours, the delay of a few months in receiving some five hundred dollars of what belongs to us of right, is of no inconsiderable importance. "A word to the wise is sufficient." Ed. Jour.

## Southern Department.

### LOBELIA, NO. IV.

One medicine which was extolled for the cure of *intermittent fever*, because it had cured *some* affections of this kind was found inefficacious in others, and on that account entirely rejected; another, for *cephalgia*, *diarrhœas*, *coughs*, &c. What eulogies *ipecacuanha* obtained, and merited for the cure of *dysentery*? Who could presume to dispute or doubt the good results which were really sometimes obtained by it? But, as it was necessarily ineffectual, in a great number of cases to which it was not adapted, it was entirely abandoned in those diseases.

"I, suppose that the whole world could not contain the books that should be written," were all the certificates, eulogies, &c., written, which the merits of *Brandrith's* and *Morison's* pills, and *Sappington*, and *Champion*, and *Moffat's*, &c., *ad infinitum* have secured on file; but, alas! with all their "panaceal" powers, their sanative virtues are often only emblematical of the "pleasures of hope." How shall we adequately extol the virtues of *Sarsaparilla*, *Wild Cherry Balsam*, and the *Phenix Bitters*, on account of the wonderful cures they have effected? But, again, what shall we say of the innumerable cases "of hope forlorn," in which they have appeared utterly inefficient, although scarcely distinguishable from the former, either in species or type. *Thomsonism*, as well as *allopathy*, is indebted to a concurrence of fortuitous circumstances for the discovery of nearly all the medicines which it employs. The history of *lobelia* proves the truth of this remark, which is emphatically true of all "the heroic remedies" of the latter practice. Each, in turn, has conjectured the virtues of medicines by their physical or chemical properties, by their taste, odor, exterior aspect, or elements, or by their family or natural genus.

Now, although chance is a most precarious source of instruction, yet

it does sometimes afford us useful hints; but, if we are *destitute* of any fixed principle of classification by which these hints can be made uniformly subservient to our purpose, they may lead us as easily into error as into truth. By chance, it was discovered, that cinchona had cured fevers; but empiricism, which took hold of this discovery, made an indiscriminate application of it, ignorant of any law by which the remedy had effected a cure in the given cases. Empiricism supposed, that it would cure *all* analogous cases, and exhibited it in *all kinds* of fevers; but, instead of a cure, this remedy often produced obstruction of the bowels, marasmus, and other diseases still more serious than the one it was intended to cure.

Such is, in fact, the history of all medicines whether simple or compound, and such inevitably must continue to be the result, while the science of pathology and therapeutics remains based on such data.

## FEVER.

Most of our readers, as soon as they glance at the caption of this article, will perhaps pass it by as unworthy of their notice. There has been so much written on this form of disease and to so little purpose, that we have not patience to run over the inconsistencies of even our best writers. Well, we shall write but a short article, and advance but a few notions on the subject.

In our last No., on the *secretions* of the human system, we were led to some conclusions which we feel disposed to carry a little farther.

Of the origin—the internal nature or the essence of disease, and especially of that form called fever, we know but little;—we can only form conjectures. The discoveries of the present age, and the advancements now being made in physiological science, may hereafter give us some insight into these hidden subjects.

The names applied to various forms of disease, are of no value in their treatment. We will consider fever, then, as purely a disturbance of the vital force, affecting both its action and sensibility, and being most distinctly perceived in the vascular system.

Dr. Riel, (On the Diagnosis and Treatment of Fevers,) says, “Any classification of disease is the work of man, which nature does not always confirm. On this account, we are unable to draw a definite line of demarcation between fevers, and those diseases which are not fevers.” Von Hildenbrand expresses the same idea, in the following words. *Logica definitio febris dari non potest.* (No one is able to give a logical definition of fever). The great variety of symptoms in febrile complaints, and the frequent changes occurring, make it very difficult to offer a definition that will be applicable to all its forms. We are satisfied, therefore, with the general definition which we have given above, that it is simply a disturbance of the vital force. We care not, if this expression will apply to the greatest number of our complaints. We reply, that every other form



of disease, may, and does, unless checked, result in fever. Our definition is, therefore, explicit enough for our present use.

We wish to inquire, if fever may not result from a simple derangement of the human galvanic battery, as described in our last article, on the secretions? or, in other words, from a morbid action of those organs that secrete the acids and alkalies, which act upon the nervous wires of the human machine? Suppose the capillary surface to become obstructed, and the positive poles of the battery to be wanting in the acidulous fluid, which keeps up the action in the serous membranes; or vice versa. Or suppose, that the alkaline secretion becomes acidified, and thus a complete derangement takes place in the action of the nervous fluid, or the electric current, which exists in the system, and which has been proved, by Prof. Matteucci, to be directed from the interior of each muscle to its surface. Could not this state of the system produce all the symptoms of a fever? And can we not refer all the phenomena of this complaint, as well as other forms of disease, to this simple source?

The writer we last quoted says, that, "temperature has a considerable influence on the intensity of the current of electricity, a small amount being developed in a cold medium, and a larger one, when the medium is moderately warm," &c. These ideas are in perfect accordance with our Botanic notions of obstruction and debility.

This theory is farther established by the late discoveries of Dr. Phillips, in conjunction with Mr. Brodie, who have conclusively proved, "that the galvanic energy is capable of supplying the place of the nervous influence; so that, by means of its assistance, the stomach, otherwise inactive, digests its food as usual, and the muscular apparatus of the lungs is roused, from a state of comparative torpor, to one of healthy action." Hence we see, that a single derangement of these galvanic forces will be immediately communicated to the whole digestive apparatus, and thus the entire organization becomes deranged.

These matters are worthy of the investigation of every Thomsonian; for they most conclusively corroborate our views of practice, and give us scientific arguments to substantiate our Theory.

We shall be happy to hear from our correspondents, on this subject as well as others; for the late discoveries of Liebig, in animal chemistry, and those in mesmerism and physiology, are in perfect accordance with the truths which we teach.

*Macon, Ga., Oct., 1847.*

(C.)

---

## THE BOTANIC PRACTICE.

The Botanic practice has been greatly opposed. Originating as it did, and being very different from that previously adopted, it is not at all surprising, that it should meet with opposition. People have, however, wrong notions as to its origin. They generally suppose it originated from an ignorant and unlearned source. Thomson, the principal founder of the sys-

tem, and also his followers, have often been called quacks; but he was no more a quack in medicine, than Patrick Henry was in the practice of law. Patrick Henry did not have the polish of classic learning; yet, by close original thinking, study of good government, and the rights of men, he did more for the good of his country, than any lawyer of more polished learning. Thomson, who was not more destitute of polished learning than Patrick Henry, by his close thinking and study of nature's remedies, has done more for the advancement of medical science, than any man of the age; but the name of Henry has been raised to the pinnacle of fame and honor, while upon Thomson is heaped the opprobrium of quack. Thomson as much deserves honor for what he has done for the benefit of the medical profession, as Patrick Henry, for what he has done for our freedom from British oppression. The amount of information which a man has or may acquire, does not so much depend upon the books studied, or the Institutions attended, as upon the proper improvement of time and a correct method of thinking. However deficient Thomson might have been in book knowledge, no person acquainted with the history of his life, can say in truth, that he did not apply himself closely to his profession. He gained his knowledge, by patient thought and the study of nature. That there have been followers of Thomson, who ought not be engaged in the practice of medicine, no person will deny. Yet that is no argument against the reformed practice, but one in its favor. Had not the practice been based upon the laws of our nature, those who have commenced it, with limited knowledge of medical subjects, would, in all probability, have done great harm.

The reformed practice has been and will continue to be a great benefit to the world. The medicines administered by its practitioners are perfectly harmless. They effect all the physician intends to have them effect, in the removal of disease, and do not injure the general health of the patient. There are many so situated, that they cannot employ a physician. Such can administer medicines themselves, without much fear of harm. The poor, who are too often shamefully neglected, can gather their own medicines and practice themselves, in their families. Admitting that the Botanic practice had its origin from ignorant men, its unfavorable commencement is very favorable for its future prosperity and advancement; for, if the medicines used are harmless and useful as remedial agents, the foundation is laid for the investigation of able minds in a new and interesting field. The new system of practice should be made a subject of deep study and thorough investigation; as much so, as anatomy and physiology. If the system originated in ignorance, the way is open for improvement. The system is improving. Men of able minds are giving their attention to it. Opponents are being convinced of the right of the practice. Men of extensive practical knowledge, in the Botanic practice, are giving their attention to the collateral branches of medical science, to become better acquainted with the human frame and the physical laws of our being. Colleges are established and patronized by students possessing minds, as well disciplined and improved as those in more popular Institutions. Soon the disgrace of quack, so often sounded in our ears, will fall upon those to whom it more properly belongs. Raise the standard of education in our ranks. The practice will then become more popular,

and engage the attention of more scientific men : and soon the genial blessing of health will be depicted upon the countenance of the infirm and diseased.

*Bibb Co., Ga., 1847.*

D.

### INFLAMMATION OF THE BOWELS.

*Dear Sir:*—On the 30th of June, I was called to see Rhoda, belonging to Miss F. Knighton of this (Kershaw) district. I found her in great pain;—the abdomen much swelled, and in a high state of inflammation. There had been no operation of the bowels, and almost an entire suppression of urine for six days; during which time she had been severely blistered, and had taken a good share of calomel. During all the time of her illness, there was a constant disposition to vomit; and the object of those that treated her before I saw her was, to allay the irritability of the stomach; but they seemed to have no idea of doing this by removing the cause of her sickness. When I first saw her, I thought her dying. She was speechless; her bowels were greatly swollen; and, indeed, her whole body was a mass of inflammation. I gave her about a wine-glassful of the third preparation of lobelia, and she immediately vomited up about half a gallon of well formed excrements, and continued throwing off large quantities of the same, with but short intervals, for five days; during which time I was mostly with her giving her little to drink but lobelia. After I had gotten all the excrements up, I gave her nine tea-spoonfuls of black root, in substance; charged the bowels thoroughly, below the interception, with bayberry tea; and, in a few minutes, the black-root passed off by the bowels, constituting the first operation which she had had for *eleven days*. Contrary to the expectation of every one that saw her, she soon recovered her health. I also used stimulating poultices freely, and the syringe often, during the time I waited on her. I cannot well put this case fairly on paper; but, in seventeen years of practice, I have never seen a case in which our glorious system more signally triumphed over an attack which, as far I know, is seldom cured.

With regard to our prospects in the Palmeto State, they are truly cheering. We are legally on an equal footing with the regulars; and, wherever true Thomsonian practitioners can be obtained, we are going ahead most gloriously. Where we have mongrel practitioners we are a by-word and reproach. But the people are getting their eyes opened; and, upon the whole, our march is onward, and, perhaps, in no State in the Union, is the Thomsonian cause more respected than in the gallant State of South Carolina.

I am yours, &c.,

WM. CARLISLE.

*Camden, Oct. 8th, 1847.*

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., NOVEMBER 16, 1847. No. 22.

---

Home Department.

---

*From the Southern Medical Reformer.*

REMARKS ON SALIVATION IN FEVER.

BY J. C. CROSS, M. D., PROFESSOR IN TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

Speaking of typhus fever, in his edition of Hamilton's work on the "Use and Abuse of Mercury," Dr. Ives remarks, that it is not only impracticable to excite ptyalism before the violence of the disease has been subdued, but that he has often seen mercury administered, when there was a peculiarly clear, dry, smooth, and shining tongue, but never knew it, in a single instance, to be produced.

Whatever may be said in defence of salivation in mild cases of fever, no one can contend, if the observations of the physicians to which we have just referred are to be confided in, that there is not a large number of cases in which it will prove entirely unavailing. Over those that are malignant or concentrated, it can exert no curative control, and this, for the simple reason, that, in such cases, to produce the constitutional influence of mercury is impracticable. The absurdity, therefore, of attempting salivation, under such circumstances, is strikingly manifest. But are we to ascribe the recoveries which take place after salivation has occurred, to the saturation of the system with mercury? For several reasons, I am inclined to think not. As has been already seen, the mercurial does not seem able to supercede the febrile action; for, in many instances, the disease has run to a fatal termination, notwithstanding the full developement of its characteristic effects. It also appears, that it has no positive power

to eradicate fever, from the fact, that, after having suspended it, febrile action will recur on the disappearance of salivation. In those cases where salivation has seemed to be of service, the close observer has been able to ascertain, that the abatement in the symptoms has preceded the development of mercurial action, and consequently the salivation is rather an effect than a cause. This is the opinion of Bancroft, Shepard, Jackson, Dickson, McArthur, Mortimer, and many other physicians; while that of Dr. Johnson, who relies so much on salivation, does not appear to be very different. From this, then, it follows that no adequate reason can be given for attempting to salivate, even in mild cases of fever.

Let it be admitted, however, for argument's sake, that the salivation is the cause, and not the consequence of the abatement of the symptoms, there will be found in that fact no excuse for resorting to so extraordinary and afflicting a remedy. The comparative results of different modes of treatment are certainly opposed to the saturation of the system with mercury. Indeed, whether we judge from personal observation, or draw our conclusions from the recorded testimony of those who have studied its effects on a large scale, we shall find, that no treatment of fever can be more unsuccessful than that which consists in efforts to produce salivation. At one period, we were so unfortunate as to repose confidence in this practice, and were induced to abandon it, only because its results were so unsatisfactory; and one of the most unsuccessful physicians with whom we were ever acquainted, relied on it exclusively. His confidence in the constitutional influence of mercury amounted to infatuation; for, in despite of the great mortality of his practice, he persevered in it, with an obstinacy as stupid as it was destructive. Nor were the results of his practice singular or unprecedented. Dr. Rush, of whom Chisholm speaks in terms of warm approbation, for his fortitude in "pursuing the mercurial mode of treatment," frankly confesses, that, in the Philadelphia City Hospital, where bleeding was sparingly used, and where the physicians depended chiefly upon salivation, more than one half died of all the patients who were admitted. Twenty-seven recruits arrived at Grenada in July, 1793, of whom twenty-six sickened of yellow fever, and of these Dr. Chisholm himself lost twenty-one—a mortality which, Dr. Hunter remarks, was never exceeded in any fever. We are informed, by David Grant, in his "Essay on the Yellow Fever of Jamaica," that all who were treated by mercury died, and that there were even more victims to the mercury than to the fever. Sir James Fellows testifies to the fact, that he never saw any advantage from the large quantities of calomel recommended in fever. Dr. Mortimer, who was Surgeon of the Naval Hospital in Barbadoes, assures us, in his "Official Report on Yellow Fever," that he has observed much distress to accompany the pyalism, without any ultimate advantage, so that he cannot consider it in the light of a remedy, unless when combined with a cathartic. From these statements it appears, that little reliance can be placed on the constitutional action of mercury as a remedy in fever. When we, therefore, reflect, in connection with this fact, that there is a large proportion of cases of fever, in which it is utterly impossible to induce salivation, and which must necessarily prove fatal, when reliance is placed in it, and that those that recov-

er, after having been salivated, exhibit manifest indications of improvement before salivation is developed, we must conclude, that it is highly preposterous and absurd to attempt the saturation of the system in any case of fever, whether mild or malignant. In the former, it is useless and inefficacious; while, in the latter, its production is impracticable. It is important, that the physician should be perfectly satisfied of the inutility of salivation in fever; for, so long as he confides in it as a curative agent, or considers himself warranted in attempting to induce it, when other remedies fail, or, in bad cases, as the forlorn hope, the treatment of fever will never experience much improvement. Convinced, however, that it is ineffectual, if not prejudicial, he will immediately look out for some other mode of medication that promises more satisfactory results. Let him be satisfied, that, in the milder cases of fever, salivation possesses no advantages over other and safer modes of treatment, and he will not subject his patients to so painful and unpleasant a remedy. Let him know, that it is not practicable to produce salivation in those that are concentrated and violent, and he will not attempt it. But, though it be contended, and even admitted, that, in comparatively mild fever, it commands more success than any other mode, it would still be dangerous to rely on it. Though it may exhibit no violence at first, it may soon show it, and time may be expended in the employment of a remedy which cannot succeed, and, when once lost, may and often does constitute the cause of a fatal termination. According to my experience, there is no truth, of which I am more convinced, than that, when fever resists proper treatment for four or five days without abatement, there is no ground left on which to predict, with any certainty, the result. In every instance, therefore, I adopt such a mode of treatment in the commencement, as to prevent me from being taken by surprise, in the event of the disease suddenly assuming a more serious aspect. This can never be the case with the mercurialist, if he is aware of the obstacles which exist, in malignant fever, to the successful operation of his remedy. He may abandon his course of treatment, but time will have been lost which cannot be recalled, and his patient consequently falls a sacrifice to it; or, if, ignorant of the inefficiency of mercury in bad cases, he madly perseveres, daily throwing in the most startling doses of the mineral, he renders death, which was before doubtful, absolutely certain.

But it is urged by the mercurialist, in defence of his practice, that, those cases of fever, in which salivation cannot be produced, are necessarily incurable. This is not only a gratuitous, but a dangerous assumption. The failures which, in such fearful numbers, follow the practice of the mercurialist, only prove, that they are necessarily fatal, if an attempt is made to salivate. His experience gives him no authority to speak of what would be the result of other modes of treatment. Because he cannot cure bad cases of fever, he not only gravely assumes, that it cannot be done by others, but would discourage further enterprise on the subject, by persuading us to rest satisfied with the accuracy of his conclusion. If salivation, and all other modes of medication, that have been tried, cannot command success, let us experiment, and, perhaps, we may ultimately succeed in obtaining a conquest over the most rebellious cases. To try any mode, however irrational, would be more laudable and hu-

mane, than obstinately to persevere in the enforcement of a system of treatment, which, the experience of so many able physicians proves, does not and cannot succeed.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

*From the Western Medical Recorder.*

### DR. KING, ON INCONTINENCE OF URINE—ENEURESIS.

It is only for those cases in children and adults, arising from a debility of the urinary organs, produced by improper food or drink, or over exercise, straining or relaxing the parts, that I wish to lay down a mode of treatment which has been almost invariably successful.

In a majority of cases to which I have attended, the *isinglass* mixture has proved effectual. It is a pleasant remedy, and well worthy a trial in every instance. It will likewise be found very beneficial in incontinence following severe rheumatic or gouty affections.

R. Take of isinglass (*long staple*) one roll; boil it in one pint of water until it is dissolved; then strain, and add one pint of sweet milk; put it again over the fire, and let it just boil up; then sweeten with loaf sugar, and grate nutmeg upon it. When made, it very much resembles custard.

*Dose.*—For an adult, a half pint or a tumbler-full three or four times a day. I have known this mixture to prove serviceable in many cases where all other medicines had produced no good effects whatever.

Should the above fail, which, by the bye, will be found a very rare circumstance, the following *diuretic compound* will be of efficacy:

- R.      Root of Queen of the Meadow, (*Spiræa Ulmaria*.)  
           Bark of Dwarf Elder root, (*Sambucus Ebulus*.)  
           Marsh Mallow root, (*Althæa Officinalis*.)  
           Mountain Pink, (the herb,) (*Epigæa Repens*.)

Of each, coarsely powdered, one ounce. Steep the compound in four pints of soft water for about four hours, then add four pints of good Holland gin, heat it till it boils, and when cold sweeten with honey.

This compound will also be found useful in all urinary difficulties, as suppression, heat, high color, difficulty in urinating, gravel, urethritis, &c.

*Dose.*—In severe cases, a wine-glassful every hour, until relief is obtained; after which, and also in mild cases, a wine-glassful three or four times a day.

In connection with the above compound, a strong tea of the following articles should be drunk freely:

- R.      Beth root, (*Trillium Latifolium*.)  
           Bayberry bark, (*Myrica Cerifera*.)  
           Wild Cherry bark, (*Prunus Virginiana*.)

Of each, equal parts. If, as is sometimes the case, the complaint is occasioned by a check of perspiration, a *rum sweat* in addition will be found beneficial.

In children, this symptom is often the result of habit or carelessness, in not being made to urinate immediately before going to bed. It will, therefore, be necessary to attend to this, and also to awaken the child at stated intervals through the night, for the purpose of evacuating the bladder. In some cases, it may be found that the urine is passed during sleep, while in one particular position, as, for instance on the back—by changing this position, some benefit may, at times, result.

Where children are in the habit of taking suppers, very little fluid should be allowed them, and tea and coffee must be abstained from, even for some time after a cure has been effected. The *diet* should be, as recommended by Dr. Beach, principally boiled milk and wheat flour, with a little nutmeg and cinnamon sprinkled on it. In some cases, a stimulating adhesive plaster, applied from the small of the back to the sacrum, will be found a valuable auxiliary.

Young girls are often afflicted with this complaint, which continues from year to year, in spite of all the means used to remove it; and it is seldom that the physician is aware of the real cause of the affliction. Upon inquiry, it will be found that there is pain in the hips and thighs, a dragging, heavy feeling internally, as if a weight were pressing downwards, a weakness in the small of the back, with more or less tenderness of the spine, on pressure. Costiveness is apt to attend. I have found these symptoms in young females subject to enuresis, as early as at the age of four years.

If this complaint is not cured at the age of fourteen, or when that change in the system, peculiar to females, ought to take place, we shall find the patient afflicted with various pains, chlorosis or dysmenorrhœa, &c.; and many young girls die about this age, with what their physicians generally call "consumption," for want of a more correct name.

The cause of the incontinence, in these instances, is a diseased condition of the uterus, as engorgement, which is not apt to be suspected in such young children, but which, nevertheless, is the case. The uterus enlarging, and sometimes slightly prolapsing, presses upon and irritates the bladder, effecting finally a debility or partial paralysis of the organ, from which results the incontinence, and often other disagreeable symptoms. Such patients ought to be placed under the care of some physician who knows how to treat them properly; for, if tampered with, by nitre, cantharides, mercury, &c., not only serious but often fatal results may ensue. There is but one correct method of treating this form of disease—and none but a physician should undertake it.

N. B. In enuresis, physicians advise the introduction of a bougie into the bladder, with or without its point being coated. Some advise the application of caustic, &c. This is all nonsense, and arises from an ignorance of the cause of the disease; and, though a cure may be effected by such means in a few cases, they will be found much more often dangerous than beneficial.

J. KING, M. D.



## LEGISLATIVE LIBERALITY.

The remarks, in a late number of the Journal, in reference to securing a charter for our College, were well timed and appropriate; and, in our estimation, the best method of procedure was pointed out. The voters in Massachusetts, who are believers in the Botanic practice, together with those who are strongly in favor of establishing a College, are sufficiently numerous to exert a controlling influence by a connexion with either of the political parties. The bodies are so nearly divided, at present, that a few hundreds may turn the scale as they choose, by acting with either of the political parties; and, we are fully convinced, that a great proportion of our Botanic friends believe, that the spread of our principles would be far more *beneficial* to the community, than the prevalence of the peculiar sentiments of either party.

We are far from desiring to raise a *Botanic* party, in the Old Bay State; yet, we *do* contend that a respectful petition, signed by some thousands of the people of Massachusetts, is deserving of a little more attention than was given to our last appeal to the Massachusetts Legislature. The *wise ones* of the Committee, to whom our petition was referred last winter, must have been quite forgetful of the persevering course which the Sage of Quincy has taken in the Congress of the United States for the last ten years. This venerable man contends, not only for the *right* of petition, but for a *respectful* reply. We hope, that the Committee, to whom our next appeal will be made, will refresh their minds a little, with the views and sentiments of some of our wisest statesmen.

We hope, also, that they will not be influenced by their prejudices, but by the interests and well-being of their constituents. Do they wish quackery abolished, and medical ignorance done away? Why, then, refuse the very means by which this can be accomplished? Do they wish to raise the standard of medical education, and enlighten the community, so that they will not be so easily gulled and deceived? Let them, then, increase the facilities for medical education. Do they deride and ridicule the *ignorance* of Botanic or Thomsonian doctors and yet refuse to co-operate with those who would enlighten and instruct them? Do they wish to see intelligence spread abroad, and the cause of education advanced, and yet deny us the very means by which this is to be accomplished? Such is the inconsistency of these men, who refuse to grant a legal existence to the New England Botanico-Medical College. But, perhaps, it is objected, that there are two Medical Colleges in Massachusetts already, that these are not very well supported, and that a *third* might be detrimental to the interests of the others, &c. Now this might be valid reasoning, if the Institution, which we seek to have incorporated, was conducted on the same principles, and taught the same doctrines; but these *very wise ones*, who use this argument, very well *know*, that the *practice* of the Botanic and that of the Old-School doctors are very different.

Again, our young men will not attend, to any considerable extent, upon the instruction of our Old-School Colleges. They consider them to be impure fountains; and hence we find, every year, quite a number from New England going to Ohio and even to Georgia, to obtain the advantages of a *Botanic* Institution. *So much* do they prize these advantages, which our Legislators refuse them.

Were this a proper place, we might adduce many reasons, why our Botanic students should not patronize the Old-School colleges, and we might show, very conclusively, to all unprejudiced minds, the superiority of our practice in the healing process, and what are the peculiar notions which we wish to inculcate in a Botanic College; but these remarks will be more appropriate before the Committee to whom our petition shall be referred.

Why should not distinct Schools of medicine receive Legislative sanction, as well as those of religion? Why should not the Homœopathic, the Hydropathic, and the Botanic methods of cure, have distinct Schools, as well as the Allopathic? Or why should not a College that would unite *all* which is valuable in each of these, receive a legal existence? Some of the European governments have thought these several theories are worthy of public patronage, and have not refused legal enactments for their benefit. The States of Ohio, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia have each granted Charters to Botanic Colleges; and why should the Old Bay State, so distinguished for its *liberal* notions, refuse to do justice to so large a portion of her patriotic sons? How can those men who are so zealous in their advocacy of the rights of petition, refuse a hearing to so large and respectable a number of their constituents?

We cannot think, that the next Legislature of Massachusetts will blot their records with so unjust a refusal of so reasonable a request.

*Petersburg, Va., Nov., 1847.*

(C.)

---

*From the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

### ALLOPATHIC CANDOR.

[Sometimes abstract definitions are less easily understood and less impressive, than illustrations by example. We, therefore, give the following, from the accredited organ of the Allopathic portion of the medical profession, as affording a clearer view, than can otherwise be presented, of the candor with which that class of physicians are wont to regard every thing which does not originate with themselves. We mean to be impartial; and we like to have our readers and the community generally judge of medical subjects and the disposition of medical men from proper data. Ed. Jour.]

*New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal.*—This is a semi-monthly periodical, published at Worcester, Mass., and conducted by Calvin Newton, M. D., and is, it is presumed, the special organ of the lobelia college, chartered the last winter by the discriminating legislature of Massachusetts. A late number of it has recently been received. A proper estimate may be formed of its tone and character, and the oracular wisdom it speaks out, as the sentiments of the learned botanico-aspiring people of the last-made college in this ancient Commonwealth, by referring to its contents. Article 1—the leader, so called, technically, by

the press, is a case of ship fever, treated with cat-mint tea, in connection with other equally efficient remedies, in the town of Weymouth. Next, *Nervous Fits*. One Nancy D. Burnham, of Blue Hill, Me., went through terrible sufferings, but, having been cured by a certain Dr. Jacobs, has taken a decided stand, and placed her feet firmly "on the rock of Thomsonism"—where we leave her. The tulip tree, variously considered, comes next; then, *a new disease*, described by Frank Rambler, of Spencer, but the description sheds more darkness than light on the subject. *Surgery by Steam and Lobelia* is the caption of another paper, both of which are too hot to be handled. *Slow Progress of Reform* is the title of a long and dolorous composition. The unwillingness of mankind to take No. 6, for ought we know, and other beautiful mixtures from the Thomsonian laboratory, quite astonishes Mr. J. J. Flourney, of Wellington, Ga. Nervous headache, operation for hare-lip, and lobelia, the great idol of adoration, nearly fill up the remainder of this No. of the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal.

From the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

### TOBACCO-ANTISPASMODIC.

[ We publish the following, to show how averse our Allopathic friends are to adopting the use of any remedy which they have been accustomed to regard as empirical. They will resort to second and third rate articles of medicine, and even to those which injure the system far more than they benefit it, rather than make trial of such simple agents as both reason and experience show to be most adapted to remove disease. In the instance given below, if the learned doctor had not been too prejudiced to try the efficacy of *steam and lobelia*, he would have found them far safer and better antispasmodics, than all the other remedies the use of which in medicine has ever been thought of. Ed. Jour.]

Miss S. P., of Springfield, Vt., aged 20, of full habit, but of a nervous sanguine temperament, was seized, while away from home, and at a distance from her family, with an ill attack, the exact history of which could not be fully ascertained. When she came under my care, she was suffering from a good deal of derangement of the digestive organs and nervous irritability, attended with frequent "fits," which had continued for months, producing a great amount of suffering. The lower portion of the spine was very tender to the touch, as well as the whole hip and thigh; but what was peculiar in the case, and to which I wish to call particular attention, was a *permanent contraction* of the muscles originating upon the right side of the pelvis—the foot being drawn up to the thigh, and the head of the bone with the soft parts presenting such an appearance as to lead to a suspicion that there was dislocation—indeed, such was the opinion of one physician who saw it. A sudden *spring of the cat* was sufficient to throw the patient into violent convulsions.

Most of the usual remedies had been tried in vain to relieve her; local bloodletting, counter-irritation, the warm bath, antispasmodics, &c. &c. The following afforded much relief:—assafetida gum, and camphor gum each half an ounce; extract of belladonna, four scruples; opium gum, two scruples. To be made into 120 pills—one three times a day or oftener.

Notwithstanding all our efforts, our patient still lay in this helpless, suffering condition. After the lapse of some months, at the suggestion of Dr. Twitchell, of Keene, N. H., I commenced the use of tobacco, resolved to give it a thorough trial. The unguent and infusion made from the domestic article were first tried, but without producing much effect upon the patient; next *smoking*, and finally *chewing*. It was an easy matter to *bring on* convulsions arising from the *application* of these remedies, but the spasms, *permanent* and *transient*, were still unsubdued.

Not yet losing my confidence in the remedy, if a sufficient impression could be made upon the system, and following the course of the old man that dealt with the “rude boy” in the apple tree, who finding that *gentle means* (tufts of grass) would not do, he tried the “virtue” of more efficient ones, I prepared an *enema* of the same article. The usual relaxation &c. was quickly produced, and the “crooked made straight.” In an hour I had the pleasure of seeing my patient walk across the room with a little assistance. The next day, there was some tendency in the muscles again to contract, but one repetition of this remedy, with the addition of a blister to the sacrum, frequently dressed with the infusion, speedily finished the work, and I frequently meet my patient now, upon the walk, on her way *to the shop*, apparently well.

My object, in detailing this case, is to draw the attention of the profession more generally to the use of this article, especially as an antispasmodic and narcotic, in cases of this kind, in *tetanus*, &c. I have some other cases that I may give you, equally proving its value.

Springfield, Vt., Sept., 1847.

H. D. RANNEY.

## A REQUEST.

New York Oct. 29, 1847

DOCT. NEWTON *Dear sir* I am about to Stuart for the west to lecture, and therefore Shall not have an opportunity of reading your paper. Please therefore discontinue it for the present. In return for the numbers Sent, I will give you an order for my two new works.

Should you Send for these works and review them, will you be careful to point out all the errors, and pass silently over the merits, and fundamental principles therein contained, in imitation of Proff. C. of Cincinnati the great *Medical Turkey Buzzard* of the West

Respectfully Yours

W. BEACH

[We are respectfully requested, by Dr. Beach, to “publish the above remarks *precisely as written*.” Not being skilled in interpreting enig-

mas, we are perfectly at a loss to understand the reasons of the request; and, were not the hand-writing well known, we should suppose the letter to be spurious. Whether the author has merely a personal pique against Dr. Curtis, which he wishes to gratify, or whether, as the language would seem to imply, he means especially a reflection upon us, also, for having made some grammatical and orthographical corrections in notices and communications of his, which we have previously published, is more than we can tell. To exonerate ourselves, however, from all blame, we would say, that we have meant no harm but a favor, in such alterations as we have made, in preparing matter for the press. We are aware, that persons, whose literary opportunities have been limited, however eminent for professional ability, are liable to fall, somewhat carelessly, into errors of composition. Not unfrequently writers enjoin it upon us, as the condition on which their communications may be published, that we make the appropriate corrections; but, if not, we always consider it an editor's liberty, and we are wont to do it. In the present instance, our respect for Dr. Beach leads us *reluctantly* to comply with his request. ED. JOUR.]

### EVERY MAN AT HIS POST.

We respectfully request of our friends in every town in which a copy or copies of the petition addressed to our next Legislature for a charter for our College has been circulated, that they will forward the signatures to us, by mail or otherwise, before the first of January next; and, when they shall do it, we wish them to inform us what individuals of their representatives elect will go for the charter. Also, we hope, that proper information will be immediately given to every representative, so that, when the subject shall call for his deliberation and suffrage, he may act understandingly and rightly. A little *electioneering* at this time, we think, will not be unsuitable. For ourselves, we wish every representative to understand, that, if our request shall be again "illiberally and unrighteously rejected," as it was by the last Legislature, we shall, during the ensuing year, canvass the whole State, scattering information and giving direction to the public mind, on this subject. If we cannot immediately secure a majority of the whole people, in favor of the object which we have in view, *we can* hold the balance of power, *and we will use it* in putting down the party at present dominant and giving the rule to another. We *most conscientiously and religiously* believe, that the interests of our College are of more importance to the welfare of the State, than *any or all* of the questions which at present divide the leading political parties; and, having this impression, "the powers that be" will find in us something of the spirit which moved Elijah of old, when he met king Ahab, face to face, and proceeded to the destruction of four hundred and fifty of Baal's prophets. Our resolution is fixed. If God spares our life, the work which we have undertaken, shall, sooner or latter, be accomplished. We are not the man to *back out*, when we have in view an object so vitally affecting the best interests of our race. We are determined that the influence of *legalized quackery* shall be curtailed, and that the true light

shall be made to shine. It is "because the deeds" of professional men "are evil," that they so much "love darkness rather than light." All which we ask and which we are laboring to accomplish, is *to give the truth a suitable opportunity to exert itself*. It will always be mighty to prevail over error, *when it has a fair chance*. The policy of errorists is to throw around the subject contemplated the mists of darkness; but, on the other hand, our untiring aim, in the present instance, is to scatter light in the paths of all men, and, from this "great work" of truest benevolence, we shall "not come down," at the call of Sanballat, nor of any of his associates. Ed. Jour.

~~~~~

*From Fowler's Physiology.*

### STRUCTURE OF THE LUNGS.

The lungs are those two spongy lobes in the upper part of the chest, which surround the heart, and, together with the latter, fill up most of the cavity formed by the ribs. They consist of a very thin and light membrane, permeated by two sets of tubes, one set formed by the branching and re-branching, almost to infinity, of the trachea or wind-pipe, till their porous structure becomes too small to be traced with the eye, even when aided by the most powerful magnifying-glass yet invented. The other set of tubes is formed by the branching and re-branching, to the same degree of capillary minuteness of the pulmonary arteries and veins—those ducts which convey the blood from the heart to the lungs and back again. Only a very thin, though tough membrane separates between these capillary air-cells and blood cells; yet so minute are its ramifications that an ordinary sized pair of lungs contains or has folded up in them, a surface, of about twenty thousand square inches! Nature is a great economist in every thing, space included; and, by this folding up of the membranes of the lungs, it is, that she contrives to present so large an amount of surface in so small a compass,—a contrivance akin to that by which she has folded up the intestinal canal, and still further folded its mucous surface so that a great amount of surface may be contained within a small compass. But for this folding arrangement, the size of the lungs must have been immense; just as, but for the similar folding structure of the intestines, mankind must have been six or eight times taller for the same weight than now. The end attained by this plating structure is, that a large surface may be provided for the juxta-position of the air in the air-cells. The right lung is somewhat larger than the left, and the two envelop the heart, so that this juxta-position may facilitate their combined functions.

We thus see in what manner the air, and of course the oxygen of the air, is brought along the side of the blood, only a thin membrane separating them. Yet this membrane, while it prevents the blood from escaping, except when ruptured, does not intercept the passage of oxygen, a gas more subtle than the air itself, so that it can pass in through this membrane, while blood cannot pass out through it, nor air pass in through it to the body.

*From the New York Thomsonian.*

### SAGO PUDDING.

Put four ounces of sago into a dish with two table-spoonfuls of sugar, a little salt and nutmeg, and one egg well beaten. Mix all together, add one quart of milk and an ounce of butter, and bake in a slow oven.

*From the Medical Gazette.*

### RESULTS OF THE ABUSE OF VINEGAR.

Landerer observed in a wet-nurse, who had been in the habit of drinking large quantities of the acetum rosarum, that the milk became impoverished, that it was of a specific gravity of 1,002, bluish-colored, transparent, had a strongly acid taste, and a well-marked odor of acetic acid. On analysis he found it to be deficient in casein and butter. The child gradually drooped, had diarrhœa, and finally died of marasmus. The woman herself, in the course of a few weeks, became pale, sickly, lost flesh, and suffered from chronic hæmorrhage.

*From the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

### DENTAL INGENUITY.

An Irishman, having the misfortune to be exceedingly mutilated by an ulcerating disease, which made sad havoc with the alveolar arch on the upper jaw, carrying away the incisors, and extending to the roof of the mouth, through which an opening was made into the nasal cavities, has been happily relieved by one of the ingenious dentists of Boston, so that he is a passable-looking man, and eats and drinks, through the mechanical appliances of the operator, much as he did before the parts were invaded by a cruel malady. Having examined the case, and being satisfied that the extraordinary mechanical skill, in remedying such a formidable lesion of essential organs, is deserving of honorable mention, we do it with feelings of gratification—hoping that the public may appreciate and encourage the dental artist, Mr. John Gunn, corner of Sudbury and Court streets, who has achieved so much.

Although there are about seventy operating dentists in Boston, and it would seem impossible that the whole of them could sustain themselves by their professional exertions, we are assured that most of them have full employment, and flattering pecuniary prospects. Competition leads to

excellence in every department of civilized life; and it cannot be otherwise than gratifying to the citizens of Boston, to know that the reputation of many of the dentists of the city is sufficiently extensive to bring patients from great distances; and thus, while they, as a body, are thriving, they are benefiting the community, and are constantly improving in the manufacture of teeth, gold work, and those manipulations which give character and value to their intricate and often complicated operations.

## Southern Department.

### LOBELIA, NO. V.

In accordance with the position which I have taken, and which I hope I shall be able to maintain, I would urge upon my Thomsonian friends the important consideration of making physiology the *basis* of therapeutics, instead of pathology; the phenomena and indications of the latter being as variable and inaccessible as the termini of the rainbow; and, while conducting their experiments physiologically, that is, on subjects in the highest state of health attainable in each case, that each experimenter have due regard to the age, sex, temperament, repetition of different individuals, form and preparation of the medicine, diet, employment, &c.

The importance and necessity of a scrupulous regard to at least *all* these circumstances will not, I presume, be deemed onerous or superfluous, by those who are eager to attain clear and definite conceptions of therapeutics. The great and distinguished Haller recommended this course, on the obvious principle, that it is very desirable to be acquainted with the properties of the medicines which we employ. Alexander had even made a few isolated experiments on his own person, but exceedingly imperfect and defective in those observations which would be conducive to the discovery of a general and definite therapeutic principle, by which alone we may anticipate and determine the "*modus operandi*" of every remedial agent, if previously proved on the healthy subject, as above proposed. We shall then be less liable to err in our prognosis, and much more competent to discriminate between morbid and therapeutic action in the organism, during the process of medication. In relation to lobelia inflata, Dr. Thomson says, "Its operation on different persons, (and, we would add, at different times on the same person,) is according to their different tempers, moving with the natural current of the animal spirits;" and the whole of his interesting and singular description of this plant or remedy is conclusive testimony of the fact, that its *modus operandi* is determined by its relation to the healthy subject, as modified by disease; that is, by the susceptibility of the diseased organs, while yet in



a state of health, to its action—its specific action. It will rarely be denied, that *every* medicament in the *Materia Medica*, stands more specifically related to some one particular organ or tissue than to another, and more or less so than any other medicament. Our extremely limited knowledge of specifics is the prolific source of quackery and “panaceas;” and, as my worthy friend, Prof. Comings, says, “We are profoundly ignorant of the properties of ALL our simples.” How, then, shall we determine the *modus operandi* of our compounds? How long shall we be compelled to drag our heavy field pieces into the contest against the enemy? This broad cast fire of “grape and canister” incurs a vast expenditure of means, with rarely adequate results, and not to be compared with the unerring and specific execution of the rifle, the effect of which is, to select and remove the general and his subordinates. Then, of course, a victory is apt to ensue. I would commend to the serious attention of your readers, Prof. C’s. strictures on the use of compounds. When we shall have attained to the skill and art of combining the elements or proximate products of the vegetable and mineral kingdoms that Nature herself uniformly manifests, then only may we presume to experiment with artificial compounds, with the possibility of ascertaining, with any tolerable degree of precision, *their* *modus operandi*. Then only may we presume on the attainment of uniform results, in their administration, according to their pathogenesis. In my next, if this essay be acceptable, I propose collecting and arranging all that is known or published, in relation to the physiological action of *lobelia inflata*.

Macon, Ga., July, 1847.

P. McINTYRE.

## REPLY TO PROF. BANKSTON.

We were somewhat surprised to see the remarks of Prof. Bankston, in the 20th No. of the *Journal*, and that he should accuse us of untruth, in the plain statement of the facts which we made; but, as we have, in our possession, sufficient data to prove every assertion we made, we do not feel in the least “sensitive, or have a deep burning cheek,” while we reply to this article. “People that live in glass houses, should not throw stones,”—is a very trite maxim, and particularly applicable to the doctor’s present situation. We had hoped, that we should be saved from the necessity of an *expose* of the affairs of the S. B. M. College. We have been connected with it for the past six years, and it is for the students and the Southern community to decide upon the influence which we have exerted in its behalf, or we might perhaps adduce its *present* state, as somewhat connected with our resignation. But of this at another time. We now attend to the charge of untruth, with which we are assailed.

In a communication from Prof. Bankston, dated at Zebulon, 50 miles from Macon, on the same day of the meeting of the Board, and before it was possible for him to have heard of the vote of that body, we have the following statement. “You know, that, in consideration of a majority

of the Worcester Faculty being also members of our Faculty, the Board authorized them to confer degrees (—this is the first time we ever heard of any such consideration—C.)—; but, as there is no one there now who is connected with our Faculty, the consideration has failed, and we have revoked the powers, or rather declared that you and Dr. Newton are not competent. But, if you and the Dr. will examine your candidates, and make a minute of it to furnish us, we will confer the degrees upon such as we think worthy, for the 25 dollars fee, as was contemplated. The fee, too, *we wish brought*, and we will be honorable in dividing it with you and Dr. N."

A few days subsequent to this, we received a letter from Prof. MacIntyre, one of the Trustees present on the occasion, in which he stated the proceedings of the Board, and then remarked, "You can probably obtain your Diplomas, by giving *one half the fees*." It will be seen, therefore, that we have proved our former assertion to be *true*, and that an "*honorable division of the fees*" meant one half of them:—also, that the statement made by Dr. Newton, in his remarks, is correct.

It is true, that, in the *official* records of the Board, annulling their former proceedings, no mention is made of one half of the fees; for we presume the gentlemen were *ashamed* to make this unjust demand in so *public* a manner. Yet, from what we have said above, it is true, that they mentioned the *one half*, as an honorable division.

In fact, no mention is made of conferring the Degrees at all on *our students* in Worcester; and, unless we had had information from other correspondence, we should not have had reason to except any favors whatever. The resolve was as follows. "That in future, from and after the passage of this resolution, the Board of Trustees and Faculty of the S. B. M. College do hereby revoke and annual the power to confer degrees by Profs. Newton and Comings of the Worcester School, upon any student or students, applicant or applicants,—maintaining at the same time, that the power of conferring Degrees belongs exclusively to the Board of Trustees and Faculty of the Mother School, and that she has no representation either teaching or supervising the Class at Worcester. The Trustees deem it a stretch of chartered powers to confer Degrees by any, save those known to the Charter, as the Trustees and Faculty of the S. B. M. College of Georgia." This resolution bears a falsity on the face of it; for we were at this time a member of the Board of Trustees, and a legal representative of that body. So, also, was Dr. Newton a legally appointed member of the Faculty in Worcester, by this same Board. Hence, it is evident, that our resignation, as a member of the *Faculty* in Georgia did not disqualify us to act as a member of the *Board*, nor was Dr. Newton disqualified, by this act, or by the failure of others to attend and lecture in W.

The whole difficulty originated from the disappointment and chagrin, which our resignation caused, and from a desire to bring us to retrace our steps; for, in this letter informing us of the decision of the Board, we have the following clause. "We have made arrangements to have the chair of Anatomy filled, *if you are not disposed to do it*."

Every impartial reader of your Journal will discover, by reading the *recognition* of the Worcester Branch in your former No. and their *annul-*

*ling* resolution in this, that their object was to obtain other pecuniary considerations, and so to embarrass our operations, as to compel us to accept of their terms. When, therefore, the Virginia College had become the advocates of what we consider orthodox views, had offered us her aid, and we had accepted it, our Georgia friends were sadly disappointed, and wished to make some amends for their conduct. This is quite evident from the fact, that a member of the Faculty and Board visited us, just after we had accepted the chair in the Virginia Institute, and offered to accept of terms, which we had previously proposed, to graduate our Worcester Students; but we informed this gentleman, that he was *too late* :—we had made arrangements with another College.

We have heretofore refrained from saying any thing by way of disparagement of the S. B. M. College, and we shall still remain silent, unless we are forced, by other attacks, to speak out. We wish the Georgia College success and prosperity, but we are sure it cannot be sustained, under its present organization. Its orthodoxy is known and appreciated, and it is *this* which has given it the popularity which it has gained; but, unless the Faculty can be intelligent and educated men, our Botanic students will seek other Schools, where greater facilities can be enjoyed.

We shall hold ourselves in readiness to make other statements in future, whenever we are called on to do so, either by Dr. B. or by others connected with the Georgia College.

*Petersburg, Va., Nov., 1847.*

I. M. COMINGS.

---

### J. J. FLOURNEY, ESQ.

We were happy to notice this familiar name in a late number of the Journal; and we hope our friend Flourney will often enrich our columns with his contributions. We trust, that our late discussions on another subject will only serve to make us more familiar and better acquainted, while we battle against poisons as remedies, and use our pens in defence of *Reform*.

We think, that, on *these subjects*, there will be no difference of opinion.

*Petersburgh, Nov., 1847.*

(C.)

---

### VIRGINIA INSTITUTE.

We are happy to inform our readers, that this College has commenced operations under the most flattering auspices.

A goodly number of students were in attendance, the first week of the Session, and others are coming in fast.

(C.)

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., DECEMBER 1, 1847. No. 23.

---

Home Department.

ALLOPATHY AND THE BOTANIC PRACTICE.

PROF. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—Permit me, though a stranger, to communicate to you the following cases that came under my care, which you are at liberty to publish in the Journal, if you think proper.

About the last of April, 1846, I was called to visit a patient, a young man about twenty seven years of age, who had been under treatment for several months by three Allopathic physicians, who were considered eminent. Finding no relief from them or their prescriptions, and constantly failing, he concluded to try the vegetable remedies. The first two of these physicians, he said, had neither name nor remedy for his disease. The last said, his case was tending to dropsy and congestion of the lungs; and, therefore, he made a bold use of the lancet, mercury, and other poisons. He blistered him, on his back, stomach, and sides, till he had drawn twenty-four blisters. The patient informed me that he had taken one hundred and thirty blue pills, and a quantity of aqua fortis, three drops at a dose. This, he said, he thought, a very singular article to introduce into the stomach; for it burnt the skin off his fingers, destroyed his finger nails, and ate holes in his clothes. He stated, that he had felt at times, as though there were a thousand worms crawling under his skin. This physician, finally, after bleeding, blistering, and poisoning him, abandoned him to the resources of nature, saying that he could do no more for him.

I found him in a deplorable condition. He had an inflammation of the liver, indigestion, and all its concomitant symptoms; so that the

least quantity of any liquid food would cause severe distress. He had also asthma, scrofula, bleeding piles, fistula in ano, and tetter, so that his back, shoulders, and arms were covered with ulcers. The heat of the system was so reduced, that he would sit by a hot fire, very warmly clad, and yet would complain of the cold. He said it seemed impossible for him ever to get warm. I told him we would try the warm medicine.

Another of the family, a sister of the above patient, about sixteen years of age, had had the typhus fever, seven years previous; and this had left her in a bad state of health, probably owing to the treatment which she had received from her physician, (one of the old school,) at the time. For the last two years, she had been troubled with chlorosis, and, nearly all that time, had been under treatment by old-school physicians. They had tried all their boasted skill, to restore her to health; but it was to no purpose. They then left her to drag out a miserable existence. When I first saw her, she had not been out of the house for about six months, and was hardly able to walk across the floor. Indeed the most of the time, she was confined to the bed. So the reader may judge something of her feelings and situation.

Under the above mentioned circumstances, both these patients were considered fit subjects for the Thomsonian's skill. They commenced taking the Botanic remedies, and soon began to recover; and, by a thorough administration and proper treatment, they have been restored to health and happiness.

For the season past the gentleman has followed his business of lumbering and enjoyed good health; and, recently, his sister has gone to work in a factory at Lowell, Massachusetts.

I warmed them, but did not burn them. I gave them medicine but not poison. I vomited them, but did not bleed them. I steamed them, but did not blister them.

I think highly of your very valuable Journal, and will use my endeavors to increase the number of its subscribers.

Yours with respect,

WILLIAM F. BUSSELL.

*Argyle, Me., November 1st, 1847.*

## CHRONIC RHEUMATISM—AGUE.

DR. NEWTON:—If you think the following cases worthy of being made public in your Journal, they are at your service. A year ago last May, I commenced treating Mr. Vallee, aged 26, for chronic rheumatism. He informed me, that the greatest part of the time for 12 years, he had been afflicted with this complaint. A number of times, he had been unable to go about, or even to dress himself, for 6 months in succession. He had been under treatment by the mineral doctors, had been through the routine practice in that complaint, not excepting salivation, and had suffered

as much, at times, from the remedies applied, as from the disease; but all to no purpose. The last attack was worse than former ones. When I first saw him, he had been in a helpless situation for four weeks; had been brought from the Pinery, about 300 miles distant, a part of the way by land; and had been obliged to lie on his back on the way, as every joint was stiff, and he was incapable of moving a hand or a foot, or even of straightening a finger. A more distressed-looking object cannot well be imagined. He was reduced to a skeleton, with the skin worn from the spine so as to leave the periosteum shining to the view, for about three inches. I thought it was the hardest case I had ever seen. I commenced with the free use of stimulants, and continued them for two days. Then gave him an emetic; but he was so helpless, that I was obliged to turn him in bed every time he vomited. I followed the emetic with the vapor bath. To receive this, he was lifted from the bed on a sheet, and was bent into the chair, not without much pain; but, by repeating this course every third or fourth day, he was able, in three weeks, to bear his weight upon his feet. In five weeks he walked about town, with difficulty; and, by the free use of liniment, applied to his joints, by vapor baths, and emetics occasionally given, he continued to gain, and has now been entirely free from the rheumatism for more than a year,—which has not been the case before, for twelve years.

Another case of rheumatism I treated about two months, last spring. It was in the person of a Mr. Rule, an English miner. He had never followed any other occupation. The complaint, which had gradually grown upon him, was seated in the muscle which flexes the arm. The use of the pick, all his life, seemed to have weakened that muscle, and caused a permanent complaint. He was also afflicted with the same disease, in one ankle. That joint was dislocated, and the foot turned directly upward, many years ago. It has never been well since. I tried the virtue of our remedies faithfully upon him. His general health was very much improved, but the rheumatism was not removed. He would feel free from pain for a number of days in succession, when the weather was pleasant; but the least change in the atmosphere would cause a return of the pain, and more or less swelling. He has formerly been in the habit of indulging considerably in the use of alcoholic drinks. Do you think he can be cured? If any practitioner has succeeded in curing a similar case, I wish he would report it, for the benefit of those who have been less successful.

About six weeks ago, I was called to administer to a young Irishman, aged 18, who had the ague. When the day for the chill came, he was very well, and ate a very hearty dinner. Towards night, he had a high fever with headache. I gave him an emetic, followed by diaphoretics. The next day, he was more comfortable, but the fever was not broken. The day after that towards night, he was most singularly affected. He was unable to speak, in consequence, as it seemed, of some swelling of the glands of the throat. His pulse was very good, but very slight fever appeared, and the expression of his eyes was natural; but he had a very uneasy twisting motion of the head and body, and sundry curious gyrations of the right arm and hand, with the fingers extended from each other. When he was able to speak, he complained of a strange feeling

in his hands and feet. The symptoms appeared very much like tetanus. I gave him about 3 oz. of the 3d preparation, in 2 & 3 teaspoonful doses, with but slight emesis once. In about two hours these symptoms subsided, a gentle perspiration succeeded, and he rested, in a quiet sleep, nearly all night. Early in the morning the symptoms returned, but the same treatment relieved him in about half an hour. He also bled at the nose, both times. During the second attack, his father called in an Irish doctor; but the symptoms had pretty much subsided before he arrived. As the patient had bleeding at the nose, the doctor thought, I suppose that bleeding at the arm was indicated. He, therefore, took a small quantity of blood. But, as it happened, the boy was doing well enough, and recovered, and was out in four days. I had then never seen or heard of a similar case; but, a few days since, I saw a communication, in Wood's Quarterly Retrospect, from Dr. Boling of Alabama, detailing a number of cases somewhat similar, but with this exception (—a difference of some little consequence, as it seems to us—Ed.),—that in them the spasms continued a longer time, and they nearly all proved fatal.

As it occasionally happens, that practitioners meet with something new to themselves, the report of singular cases may be instructive to others. This consideration has induced me to communicate to you the above remarks.

I remain yours, &c.,

Galena, Oct. 16th, 1847.

E. B. HOUGHTON.

## THE INFLUENCE OF OPIUM.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—In one of the early numbers of your publication, was an article upon the “ultimate effects of opium;” and I thought it possible your readers might be interested in the report of a somewhat similar case, which came under my observation, a few years since. Mrs. F. was the wife of a clergyman of high standing in the denomination to which he belonged. She was a worthy woman; and, as things are viewed by finite eyes, deserved a better fate, than it was her fortune to meet. Some years previous to my acquaintance with her, she had a severe illness, and opium was freely prescribed, notwithstanding the opposition of her husband to its use. Being naturally of a nervous temperament, he feared, that she would find it hard to relinquish a powerful stimulant, if she once became accustomed to its use. On her recovery, his fears were fully realized. For some time, she continued to take her daily dose; but, at length, her husband felt, that the habit must be broken up, or her usefulness would be entirely destroyed. It would never do to have the parson's wife an opium-taker: and he told her, that she must give it up, for he should not get her any more. As soon as she had used what she had on hand, she was seized with vomiting and diarrhoea, which continued for one day, when she began to grow cold. Through the following night, the chills continued to increase, and, towards morning, she was taken with fainting. She could not retain a par-

ticke of food, or any thing else, except brandy and water, on her stomach. By day light, her strength was nearly exhausted, and she looked more like a corpse than a living person. It was a serious question with her husband, whether he should not send and get her some opium ; but, as he was obliged to leave home on business, he resolved to wait until his return, and see, if she would not get along without it. As soon as he was gone, she took a full dose of brandy, and then started to go to the doctor's house, which was but a short distance. She knew the doctor's wife would supply her with what she wanted ; but she did not dare to send one of her children, for she well knew, that they partook too much of their father's spirit. She succeeded in reaching the door, and fainted. The doctor's wife, being aware of the real state of things, soon found means to relieve her, and she returned home, comparatively comfortable.

When her husband returned, he was rejoiced to find her so much better ; and he remarked, that, as she had now begun to amend without opium, he hoped she would not again be compelled to use it. This was a damper to her spirits, for which she was not quite prepared, as she had not thought of the results of her deception. But she was unwilling to mar her husband's happiness, by telling him the truth ; so she permitted him to believe, that she was in reality dispensing with the accustomed stimulus. Months passed away, and she continued the secret indulgence. At length, the doctor and his wife suddenly left home, and she was again in great trouble. No opium could she get without the assistance of her husband, and to acquaint him with her real condition was not to be thought of. For two days she was very sick, and her husband thought she would die. A physician was called, but was desired not to give opium, lest she should again be brought under its influence. His prescription did her no good ; and, finding she must die as she was, she requested to have a friend sent for, to whom she revealed her secret. This woman was one of the few who have the moral courage to do right, fearless of consequences. She went immediately to Mr. F. and told him his wife must have opium, or she would die. He had become alarmed at the apparent danger of one so dear, and finally procured what was wanted for that time ; but no entreaties could induce him to purchase a quantity to keep in the house. What should she do now ? Her oldest son was just married, and his wife was a kind, affectionate daughter, and a good nurse. She understood the cause of her mother's suffering, but could not comprehend why the remedy was so cruelly withheld. She resolved to provide it herself, little suspecting what terrible results would follow such kindness.

Mrs. F. had given up in despair, and resigned herself to what seemed inevitable death, when her son's wife came in with a large bottle of laudanum in her hand, and presented it to her. She received it with a joy that can never be expressed by words, or, in any degree, comprehended by one who has not passed through the horrible suffering which opium prepares for its victims. Again, she was able to fill her place as a pastor's wife ; and, for many years, she continued the course of deception, on which she had almost unconsciously entered. But it could not always last. Her health declined, her mind became more and more feeble, until it seemed as though her intellectual faculties were almost destroyed. As disease increased, she increased her use of opium, until she found her



self in the iron grasp of consumption. Still, she thought opium would eventually relieve her, if she only took enough. With this idea, she one day swallowed a powerful dose. Worn-out nature could no longer contend with so potent an enemy, and was on the point of giving up the contest. She became alarmed; a physician was called; the cause of the trouble revealed; and all the long train of deception brought to light. Much blame was cast upon the kind-hearted daughter-in-law, and much did she deplore the sad results of her mistaken kindness. The old doctor, who had been her friend and medical adviser for years, was now dead; and his place was filled by his son, who had but little sympathy for such as voluntarily give themselves up to what he considered a sinful indulgence. He thought, that, by breaking up this pernicious habit, he could again restore her to comfortable health. Her husband and daughter had some fears, that she had not strength to survive the loss of the accustomed stimulus; but the doctor assured them, that "there was no danger,—that the change in her habits should be gradual,—and that, when once out from under its influence, she would not feel the need of opium." He accordingly commenced the "Herculean task," which the inspired penman truly compares to changing the "Ethiopian's skin, or the leopard's spots." He gave her a weak solution of morphine with other medicine; but it was only a trifle, compared with the large doses which she had formerly taken. He had prescribed for her about ten days, when I called to see her; and no language can describe the unutterable anguish depicted in her countenance. She was reduced to a mere skeleton, too weak to "roll from side to side;" but every motion indicated such extreme nervous restlessness as would have induced her to do so, if she had had strength sufficient. She had formerly made me her confidant; and now she felt, that I should understand her real situation, and feel the deep sympathy for her sufferings, which she craved. As I stood by her bed, she took my hand in her own, so cold, emaciated, and corpse-like, that it sent an involuntary shudder through my frame, and said in a whisper, "*I am dying for the want of a little opium.*" Seeing me start, as though I would speak, she said, "No, no; do'n't tell them. They do'n't know how much I suffer for the want of it; but you do, and you know how to pity me. *Oh! I would give the whole world, if it were mine, for one little dose! Yes,—one little dose would be bliss to me, if I could have it!!!*"

Ye who have hearts to feel for human woe, think, if you can, what were my feelings, as I stood by that bed, witnessed such misery, and heard such language, well knowing, that I could do nothing myself for her relief, nor say any thing to influence others to give her what she so much needed.

What, if she had done wrong in taking it so long! Who will dare to say, that it was right to withhold it from her, in that fearful extremity? *But it was withheld; and, in a few days, she died!!!* Would, that I could present the picture of this woman's sufferings, to all those invalids in our land who are beginning to tamper with the "*deadly drug,*" which, "at last, biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Methinks, they would hasten to deliver themselves, as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler."

OBSERVER.

## ALLOPATHIC PREJUDICE.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—Feeling somewhat in a writing mood, I will trouble you with a few lines. This season, so far as I can learn, has been a remarkably healthy one, in this portion of the West. But what little business the doctors have they generally manage to do up scientifically; for, every few days, some poor sufferer is consigned to the grave; but often not until nature has disputed, most resolutely, every inch of ground, and, at last, has been compelled to yield to king Calomel. It is only a few days, since a child, 10 or 12 years old, was laid away, with a part of the lower portion of its face already *fallen off*, and appearances indicating, that a large part of the rest would soon have followed; had not death terminated its sufferings in mercy, and spared its friends the anguish of beholding the further devastations of this *most potent remedy*. In such instances, the outraged feelings of surviving friends are usually quieted with the assurance, that it is the Lord's will; and so these works of iniquity are saddled upon the supreme Arbiter of events, and he is made the scape-goat of one of the most iniquitous systems which ever cursed the world. I am sometimes perfectly confounded at the blind bigotry which possesses the minds of those men whose business it is to administer to the wants of suffering humanity. It does seem, as though they thought more of conforming to the opinions of certain authors, and following the prescribed rules of a Medical Association, than they do of the lives of their patients. In their opposition, especially, to reform in medical practice, some of them hesitate not to endanger the life of a fellow being, if, by so doing, they can bring obloquy upon that system to which they are opposed. These are hard sayings, but I am compelled to believe them; for it is but a short time, since one of the poison dealers tried to persuade a patient of mine to eat unripe peaches, only two days after he had reported him as in a very dangerous situation with bilious fever. This same man, was prescribing for a slight ailment in a stout individual, who was still able to be about town and attend to his business. This individual ate some of the same kind of fruit, and thought it injured him. He told his physician what he had done, when he broke out, with an oath, and told him, he wondered it had not killed him. This shows the estimation in which he held the fruit, which he told my patient would do him good. Comments upon such an act are unnecessary: or upon a profession which feels itself obliged to treat with contempt every thing not paying homage to its mandates,—no matter how much it may promise to add to the welfare of mankind,—if it cannot trace its origin within the walls of a legalized enclosure.

Of all men, the physician should be a liberal-minded man,—ever anxious to learn all that will enable him to be of benefit to his suffering fellow creatures. He should never conclude, that he has nothing more to know; or that he can find all knowledge in any one system or theory of practice. He should ever be ready to learn from every body. He who expects to find out all that can be known, in one train of reasoning, or round of study, is like a man travelling upon a circle, who expects, that, because he can travel all his life-time upon that circle, he can, conse-

quently, visit every place that the length of his life will permit him to visit. After a while, some one, who has learned, that, in order to extend his knowledge, he must strike out a path diverging from that one so long travelled, strikes out accordingly in a new direction, and finds an extent of knowledge and research, of which he never before dreamed. Our traveller, who thinks, that the old path will lead him to all that he can ever know, comes around to the new road. He stops, and asks, Who made this new track? Was it the man who marked out the one that I am in? No! says one. The path which you are in, tells the same old story. This new path is a better way. Discoveries have been made in it, far more valuable, than in the one in which you are; and they have been made by one who does not believe, that your old way is perfect. Now see self-confidence, bigotry, and ignorance, encircling the lips of scorn. *Fool!* says he; and on he goes, muttering vengeance upon the poor deluded fanatic.

But a few days since, I was conversing with one of these *circular* doctors. We were telling each other what means we used in the treatment of different diseases. I mentioned the tincture of lobelia. He sighed, and said, he did not believe in lobelia. Said I, because you know nothing about it. Said he, Dont I know, it is the most prostrating of any thing that can be used? Have I not seen its effects? Said I, Did you ever use it, *in your life? or did you ever see the operation of it, in a single case?* He was too conscientious to lie directly, and he acknowledged, that he never did either use it or see it used; but he said, Dr. Bigelow *told him so*. Here you see the beginning and end of a great deal of this circuitous knowledge; and these are the men who are thought qualified to give their opinions *understandingly* to the community, in matters intimately connected with life and death, and who are supposed, by the confiding patient, to be well instructed in all which pertains to a judicious physician.

But this state of things cannot always remain. The light of truth is shining, and is destined to dispel the clouds of mystery which have so long covered the pathway, to the grave, of millions of our fellow men. Men of intellect, science, and humanity are engaged in this good cause; and, so sure as *truth is mighty*, it must prevail. In order, however, to the accomplishment of this desired event, physicians must be men of principle and adhere firmly to that which they know to be right. In the practice of some, there is too much disposition to accommodate the taste and prejudices of the patient, even at his expense. I was talking with a physician, not long since, who advocated the practice of making medicine to suit the taste of the patient. Instead of accommodating his desire too much, in a matter about which he cannot be a judge, the physician should take that course which will be most likely to cure him speedily, though the remedy be not quite so palatable. There should be no tampering with his whims to the prolonging of his disease. This principle cannot be too deeply impressed upon the mind of every one, while he is receiving his medical education; for the triumph of our cause and the rescuing of suffering humanity from the iron grasp of medical tyranny depend upon the integrity of our practitioners and their strict adherence to the true principles of practice. In the name of humanity, let us not fall into

the same vortex of *quakery* which characterizes the practice against which we war.

Yours, truly,

Galena, Oct. 16th., 1847.

E. B. HOUGHTON.

## THE PROPERTIES OF LOBELIA.—IS IT A NARCOTIC ?

DR. NEWTON ;—Since lobelia is really the most valuable article of our vegetable *Materia Medica*, its nature cannot be too well investigated. As it is stated, by Dr. Beach and others, that lobelia is a narcotic, I ask on what grounds that assertion is made. The common acceptation of the term *narcotic* is the property or properties found in vegetables which produce vertigo, dilatation of the pupils, delirium, stupefaction, spasms, and death. Now I deny, that these are the legitimate properties of lobelia, and I appeal to a host of practitioners for proof. Within a few years, some new light has been thrown upon the nature of narcotics, by that Newton in organic chemistry, Liebig.

It seems that the common food which supplies the nervous system, contains the four elements, oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen, in just the same proportions as they are found in nervous matter.

But, in narcotic substances, where the same elements are found, the nitrogen is in disproportion, though it varies in different plants. Hence their unnatural effect upon the nervous system, and their various kinds. Some pains have been taken to ascertain, whether the active property of lobelia does not depend upon a vegetable alkali, or nitrogenized element. But, I believe, there is no positive proof, that such is the case ; and, if it is not, then our opponents are deprived of all hope of ever classing lobelia with the narcotics.

If the contrary proves a fact, then we should recollect, that the principle pointed out by Liebig, as the basis of a classification, includes many substances, such as quinine and theine,—the active principles of Peruvian bark and tea,—not usually regarded as narcotic. And it may be, that within this list, is included a principle that will be the basis of a subdivision ; and, after all, if lobelia be a nitrogenized substance, it may be classed among articles as harmless as tea or tomato.

But *experience* is the proper foundation for all our reasonings upon the relation of this medicine to the body. Unlike narcotics, lobelia is borne by delicate insects and animals, without producing death. Its remarkably mild operation and congenial effects upon infants are sufficient to convince any one, that it is not a poison. I have known it given to the infant, of a few hours, with impunity. Our physicians are constantly in the habit of giving it to children, in small doses, without the design of its being ejected, as it relieves their pains and irritations, with a thousand times better effect than opium. It is with children, that I have carefully looked for deleterious effects ; but, behold ! they grow fat upon it. Its harmless influence upon females, when *enciente*, is another proof of its congeniality with life. In several cases of consumption, or what appear-

ed to be consumption, which I have known to be cured, lobelia emetics were repeatedly taken. In one case, over a hundred were taken in a few months. If lobelia is a poison, why, in this usually fatal disease, did not the patient certainly die, instead of being restored to good health. It would be no great disparagement to the credit of lobelia, if it could be proved, that the *excessive* use of it does injury. But I can scarcely recollect a case in which I have imagined such a use of it. Another and a very striking proof of the purely sanative nature of this glorious medicine is its power to recover the system from the effects of opposite diseases. Often have I seen it *reduce*, to a natural time and tension, the raging pulse of fever. And, more than once, have I seen it *elevate* to a natural standard, the slow and feeble pulse of congestion and concussion of the brain. Nothing, in all that I have learned in medical science, gives me more pleasure, than the knowledge of the potent powers of lobelia to relieve human sufferings, and arrest those furious onsets of disease, which so suddenly result in death. Armed with this simple vegetable, I am sure, that we can accomplish more desirable and immediate results in removing disease, than all which can be done by the lancet, mercury, opium, and counter-irritation combined; and that, too, without the sad sequel of the long lingering regrets of the patient.

Some curiosity has been manifested about the *modus operandi* of lobelia. It is true, that organic chemistry has opened avenues which may lead us to further acquaintance with the manner in which all medicines operate. But, at present, we scarcely know the connection of two links in the chain of causation, with regard to lobelia, or any other medicinal agent. The most which I have met with, on the subject, are some imperfect generalizations of its physiological effects. The justly celebrated Dr. Curtis teaches, that its almost sole power is to produce relaxation; and that the evacuation of the stomach is the necessary consequence of reaction from this state. Accordingly, in fevers, inflammations, spasms, or any case of undue tension, its use is indicated. I admit, that, to make this important *general effect* one of the guides in its employment, is particularly useful to the young practitioner; yet, that emesis is simply a reaction from relaxation, as a bended bow flies back, I do not believe.

All emetic action, whatever be the cause, is *attended* with more or less relaxation; but is not necessarily *preceded* by it. The vomiting produced by powerful astringents or stimulants, by thrusting the finger into the throat, or by imagination, is sufficient proof of this. Again, the relaxation which may be produced by alkalies, bleeding, and fainting, without being followed by vomiting, is another evidence against this theory. I believe, that vomiting is a specific function, and that it is no more the indirect effect of relaxation, than digestion or vision is such an effect. If there was evidence, that the stomach was greatly relaxed, or that the relaxation fell principally upon the respiratory muscles, which are the principal agents in vomiting, there would be more plausibility in Dr. Curtis' doctrine. But the fact is, these muscles always continue their habitual contractions in respiration, while others, remote from the stomach, often lose all power. The greatest relaxation, too, sometimes *attends* the very act of vomiting, or immediately follows it. To teach a student, that relaxation is the sole property of lobelia, might lead him into error; for he

would sometimes suppose it would be wrong to give it to debilitated persons ; whereas, they often recover strength under its use. Dr. Curtis makes his relaxations and contractions govern all the operations of lobelia, as completely as Newton's attraction and repulsion rule in astronomy. Now it is true, that the laws which govern the larger masses of matter are few and simple ; but I am compelled to believe, that the laws which govern particles, more especially in living bodies, are multifarious and complex. This doctrine puts one too much in mind of the idea entertained by the multitude, that the benefits of emetics arise from their cleansing the stomach. But, for my own part, I rarely give lobelia with that view. It is its effect upon parts most remote from the stomach, upon the circulation, innervation, perspiration, and secretion, to which I look.

I will not attempt to give a complete explanation of the *modus operandi* of lobelia. But, among the *relations* of a thousand other things to the body, I will give it "a habitation and a name," founded simply on its physiological and therapeutic effects. When we apply this article to the surface, or any other part, we discover no corrosion or unhealthy irritation, as with tartrate of antimony ; Nor, when we apply it to the surface, can we discover any direct relaxation. But, when it is applied to an abraded surface, or to the eye, it immediately stimulates with a pungency not unlike capsicum. And stimulation may be assigned as a minor quality ; but I doubt whether it can be separated from its paramount property,—its *emetic power*. Whether it be applied to a raw surface, to the rectum, or by inhalation, we discover no remarkable effect, until it begins to operate on the stomach. I have already shown how congenial is this emetic operation with life. I, therefore, conclude its relation to the body is simply and purely emetic. We have ample evidence, that emesis, if not as normal as digestion, is a function equally as specific ; and is daily exhibited in infants. Now all the great faculties of life have certain agents, expressly *related* to them, which excite their action. Vision is stimulated by light, hearing by sound, and digestion by food. The function of emesis must have stimulants, in the vegetable kingdom, no more abnormal, at least, than the mother's milk when in excess. If not, here then occurs a chasm in nature. This important faculty is the safeguard of life ; and is frequently manifested upon any sudden attack upon the system, even by a blow on the head ; and, particularly, when poisons are introduced into the stomach. But the popular idea, that all which vomits is poison, is founded on a sophistical syllogism. I have cited sufficient disproof, in the safety of things that vomit. Besides, there are active poisons which do not vomit.

*As nausea is the greatest immediate restorative power provided by nature :—as the stomach has a greater connection, with both the voluntary and the sympathetic nerves, than any other organ, so that the effects of its restorative effort may be communicated to every vessel and tissue of the system ;—and as lobelia is the most powerful and natural excitant to this effort, which we possess ;—therefore, I conclude, that LOBELIA IS A SIMPLE STIMULANT OF THE EMETIC POWER, AND THUS ACTS AS A UNIVER-  
SALLY SANATIVE AGENT IN THE BODY.*

FRANK RAMBLER.

Spencer, Nov. 8th, 1847.

*From the Western Lancet.*

## SURGICAL CASE AT THE BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.

BY A. M. BLANTON, M. D., SURG. SECOND KY. REGIMENT.

On the morning of the 23d Febuary, when the left wing of our army was compelled to fall back, Lieut. John Merrifield, Ky. cavalry, before his regiment had moved a hundred yards, was shot through the arm. The ball entered posteriorly, about two inches above the insertion of the deltoid muscle, passed through and cut the brachial artery on its axillary side. A tremendous hemorrhage ensued, and he came directly to me, not a dozen yards distant. His danger was evident, and he was directed to gallop to a ravine a few paces in front, out of reach of the bullets; but, when we had reached the place, before I could take hold of him, the regiment was parallel with us, and the Mexicans in the rear and firing, so as to render the position untenable. I now directed him to bear off to the left from the line, that every one else was taking, and, running another hundred yards, we got behind a little hillock, when I took hold of him, and he fell across my horse's withers, unable longer to maintain his seat unassisted. I pinched up his coat sleeve, on each side, so as to make two compresses, pressed them against each orifice, and applied a roller from the elbow up as tight as I could draw it. After the roller was four or five layers thick, the hemorrhage was entirely arrested, before which his blood was dripping fast from my horse's fetlocks, having saturated the end of the saddle blanket and his mane. We were now obliged to move immediately, and, after going a short distance, I discovered, that he revived and would be able to reach the hospital, three hundred yards off. So it was pointed to him, and I re-joined the command to which I was attached.

He reached the hospital, was taken from his horse, and described the nature of his wounds, when one of the surgeons applied a very tight roller from the hand to the axilla, without a recurrence of the hemorrhage. I did not see him again until the 25th. He was doing well, with the first dressing untouched; pulse at the wrist imperceptible.

Nothing of any interest afterwards occurred in this case, except that a pulse in the radial and brachial arteries could be felt faintly beating, on the 2d March, which, gradually strengthening, is now, April 1st, nearly as strong and full as that of the other arm. About an inch above and below the wound, the artery does not appear to contract, but to let the blood flow on through it without interruption.

In the above case, I am certain that the brachial artery was cut, perhaps half of its circumference; that the amount of blood lost, under other circumstances, would have caused the man to faint, before we had stopped; but his high state of excitement enabled him to bear the copious hemorrhage; that, if the wound had been made by a cutting instrument, he, would have died anyhow, but the life or contractility of the artery was destroyed by the ball; that the circulation in the artery for a few days was nearly arrested; and, finally, that the wound healed, the artery gradually regained its tone, and the blood circulated in it as before.

## EXPLANATIONS.

We have of late received two communications from New Britain, Conn.,—one over the signature of Medicus, the other of Medicus Jr. The hand-writing of both is the same, and one which, we think, we very well recognize. Still, as we are liable to be held responsible for the bearing of any remarks on the character of individuals, we have adopted one rule for all cases,—which is, to publish nothing containing personal allusions, without having, in our possession, the true name of the writer.

In the former of these communications, Dr. Medicus makes a dolorous complaint respecting a short editorial article, on page 276 of the Journal, headed "Interesting Co-operation." This communication contains several gross mis-representations and palpable untruths. At the Convention in Hartford in May last, instead of "making a long *posy* communication to the meeting respecting the superior merits of the Journal," we said very little of its present superiority. We admitted, that our cause requires a periodical in New England of a high order, and that we would like *the means* of making the Journal such. We said nothing of the "Eclectic College" at Worcester, except to correct the assertion of the President of the Convention, that that was the designation of our infant Institution, and to inform him, that it, not only did not then bear, but *had never borne* that name ;—an error of his which he was frank enough then to acknowledge, though the old chime "Eclectic" is now sounded again. We have not said, on page 276, that "the *Society* agreed to furnish any specified number of subscribers." We did not "agree to make the paper more practical," *without* a decided increase of the means of so doing. It is not true, that "there has been hardly one page of editorial" matter "in the paper, since somewhere about the 12th of May last," though there has been less than might have been expected, had we had a large increase to the number of our subscribers. We have not knowingly "boasted" of any "enlargement" of the paper, though we have *spoken* of having enlarged it. All the assertions which we have here contradicted, are positively untrue.

We admit, that a single expression, in the remarks headed "Interesting Co-operation," was liable to misconstruction ; but this liability did not occur to us, till after the paper had gone to the press, and it was too late to qualify it. We refer to the first sentence of that article, which was as follows :—

We would remind our good friends, in one of the New England States, whose Convention we attended somewhere about the 12th of May last, that the encouragement which they gave us, of procuring, forthwith, in their State, two or three hundred subscribers, has been so far realized, that we *already* want but *one hundred and ninety nine names* to make out the smallest number mentioned, and, what is better, we have *all* the money,—*one whole dollar*,—in hand.

During the sitting of the Convention we received a few subscriptions,—we think, not exceeding eight or ten. At its close, quite a number of friends expressed a deep interest in the future circulation of the Journal ; and they individually and repeatedly gave us the encouragement of which we have spoken. Between that time and the time of writing the article



at which offence has been taken, we received *one* new subscription from "the land of steady habits." We are happy here to say, by the way, that we have since received one additional name. That short article was intended merely as a *humorous* rebuke of a negligence of which all are apt to be guilty, in like cases.

Interested individuals will not unfrequently propose to assist an editor in the circulation of his Periodical,—and yet, in the pressure of professional and personal engagements, they will often forget their obligations to afford benevolent assistance. We had not supposed, that a little *pleasantry* would be construed into "a base slander" by any one, except it might be, by such as have a consciousness of guilt in the neglect.

The communication from Dr. Medicus Jr., contains some strictures on the sentiments expressed in the letter of Dr. M. F. Bassett, published on page 333 of the Journal. These strictures are, in a good measure, just, though written in a style and spirit not altogether the most dignified nor conciliatory. With a few verbal corrections, we will hereafter publish them, on condition of the writer's giving us his true name. Ed. Jour.

### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

With the next number, we shall complete the first volume of the Journal. The second volume will commence, Jan. 1st, 1848, and will appear in the present enlarged form of the paper. To subscribers paying in advance, the price will remain, as it now is, \$1.00. Those delaying payment three months will be charged \$1.25; and those delaying six months, \$1.50.

We are not among those who begin a volume and do not complete it. The present year, we have given our subscribers a considerable amount of matter more than our obligations demanded; and we now propose to do still better by them, for the year to come. As our price, in comparison of the amount of matter afforded, is exceedingly low, it is but reasonable, that advance payment be insisted on, or that a fair equivalent for delay be required.

Those subscribers who have not yet paid for the present volume and are interested in the continuance of the publication, will do well to forward, at the same time, the subscription price of both years. To those who do not pay for the present volume before the first of January next, we shall cease to send the paper, as we cannot afford to pay three or four hundred dollars annually, in accommodation of the negligence or parsimony of as many individuals. We much prefer issuing merely some six or eight hundred papers which are seasonably paid for, to sending out double the number to those whose neglect of payment is protracted and embarrassing.

To those friends who have thus far kindly assisted in extending the circulation of the paper, we present our sincere thanks, and earnestly solicit the continuance of their favors. Ed. Jour.

## THINGS AS THEY SHOULD BE.

We are glad to learn, that our friends, in some places, are taking hold of a common cause, *at the right end*. In one place, for instance, those in favor of having our College receive a charter the ensuing winter, have formed a party, and have had their *pledged* candidate for a representative. The result of the first meeting was, that the candidate of the Botanics had a *plurality*, though not a *majority* of votes. The result being declared, some of the wise ones, opposed to the Botanic Practice, introduced a motion in favor of not having the town represented, the ensuing year; and this was carried. Our friends, however, were determined not to yield the point here. With much opposition,—the select-men refusing to call a second meeting,—they obtained a warrant for one to be holden on the 22d inst. We have not learnt the final result; but, if they have failed to elect their candidate (, as we hope they have not), their example is worthy of imitation.

In another place, where both of the regularly nominated candidates of the leading political parties were *anti-botanic*, a single individual, a friend of ours, by circulating a few votes for a *Botanic* candidate, prevented the success of what would have been the dominant party. And, though his candidate, at first, received but *six* votes, yet he was thus able to hold the balance of power; and, by perseverance, after several ballotings, he induced the subordinate party to yield their candidate and vote for his. The result was, that the *Botanic* was finally elected. This was right; and it shows what a little unyielding moral energy can accomplish.

Now, mark! unless we succeed in securing a charter from the next Legislature, these examples, be assured, will be imitated, in many instances, at the next annual election. We shall not tamely submit to a repetition of such an unrighteous rejection, as we last winter received. The moral energies of the State *can* and *shall* be aroused in favor of our cause. We hold, that our Legislators are the servants—not the lords of the people; and, if they do not regard the wishes of their constituents, they “will have leave to withdraw” and give place to better men. It must not be forgotten, that the injustice done us, the last winter, in refusing to grant us a charter, was the more glaring from the consideration, that the Boylston Medical School in Boston,—an Allopathic concern,—was chartered, *without opposition*.

It is not a little curious and surprising to see how almost every important improvement in science, has been at first stoutly opposed, not merely by the ignorant vulgar, but by professedly scientific men. Galileo, having published the truth, that the earth has a movement on its axis, was constrained to renounce his position, to save himself from persecution unto death. When Harvey had made known his discovery, that the blood circulates in the human system, he was ridiculed and despised, for entertaining such notions; and it is remarkable, that not a physician who was forty years of age, at the time of this discovery, ever admitted its truth. Notwithstanding the evidence was so palpable, every one lived and died, denouncing it as a *humbug*.

Just so it is, at the present day, in regard to reform in medicine. With the *would-be* great ones, the idea, that the sick can be healed of grave

diseases, without being poisoned *almost to death*, receives no favor. On the contrary, the doctrine, that agents not poisonous are safe remedies, their superior wisdom regards as extremely absurd; and their excited imaginations show them, here and there, great numbers of persons wantonly killed by the introduction, into the stomach, of such horrid articles as composition and ginger tea. Truly, this is a great world, and there have been and are still in it men of great conceptions.

## Southern Department.

### TYPHUS FEVER.

In the 19th No. of the Journal, we notice a report of a case of ship fever, by C. C. of South Weymouth. We shall find no fault with the treatment, for we believe Dr. C. C. is a good Botanic practitioner; but we were somewhat surprised, that the case should continue till the 9th day, "nothing better but rather worse." This ought not so to be. The grand object of our Botanic System of medical practice is, to assist the powers of nature to effect a *speedy* crisis,—to hasten her efforts; but, in this case, it seems, that these efforts were not much excited. Whenever we have a case which defies our treatment *nine days*, we always conclude, that we have not hit upon the right remedies, or have not judiciously applied them; and that, if our patient after that period recovers, *we* are not entitled to any credit for the cure,—but to *nature* is all the honor. We very well know, that we cannot expect to cure a case of *typhus* fever so speedily as a common bilious attack; but we must contend, that Botanic remedies, judiciously applied, will afford relief and alleviate the worst symptoms, in less than nine days.

We have found much benefit from bathing our typhus patients with *pepper-sauce*, which contains the *acid* and *saline* properties, so necessary in these nervous fevers. Our friend mentions, that he bathed his patient with *saleratus* water; but, if the remarks which we have previously made on this subject, are correct, the preparation for sponging the patient ought to have been an *acid*, instead of an alkali,—for there was already an alkaline accumulation over the whole cutaneous surface. Perhaps, therefore, this patient would have manifested signs of improvement from the first, if an opposite course had been pursued. This may appear a small matter to some; but, from a case which we have lately had under our treatment, we have become quite established in our belief, that the greatest benefit will be obtained by neutralizing the alkaline secretion, which is so abundant in all low nervous fevers.

We have some Thomsonian notions, respecting the use of stimulants in typhus fever, which we shall give to our readers by and by.

*Petersburg, Va., Nov., 1847.*

(C.)

# NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Published Semi-Monthly for the N. E. Botanico-Medical College.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR.

---

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

---

VOL. I. WORCESTER, MS., DECEMBER 16, 1847. No. 24.

---

## Home Department.

### DR. BASSETT'S EXPLANATION.

[The letter to which the writer of the following alludes, was rather a business communication; but, as he had previously informed us, that he had not seen the number of the Journal containing the letter of his forwarded to us for publication from New York, and knew not even what letter it was to which a reference had been made in a number of the Journal which he had seen, we took occasion to make some allusions to the matter of controversial interest. It was these allusions which called forth the explanation which we now give our readers. Ed. Jour.]

*Falmouth, Mass., Dec. 3d, 1847.*

PROF. NEWTON:—*My Dear Sir,*—Your very kind and gentlemanly letter of the 30th ult. was received last evening; also, the papers you did me the favor to send, for which receive my sincere thanks.

In the matter of medical reform, I have no partiality for names, as such. The restricted notions of Dr. Samuel Thomson, relative to the use of cathartic medicines, afford too little latitude to the general practitioner; as well as being, in my opinion, fundamentally erroneous. His routine of sweating, vomiting, and enemata, with the addition of little else but a few tonics, astringents, and stimulants, in my estimation, falls far short of the resources which ought to be at the command of every one to whom is entrusted so great responsibilities as the health and the lives of his fellow beings; and, also, if carried out to the letter, in many cases, as the last stage of phthisis, organic affections of the heart, and many other conditions, which the physician of extensive practice often has to treat, must prove absolutely injurious.

Of Dr. Beach, as a man, I know nothing;—as a medical man and reformer, only what I have learned from his works. From these I infer, that he is a man of great experience and practical knowledge. How much of them is original in matter, and how much he owes to his great perceptive faculties and powers of analysis, I am not capable of saying. But, taking his “American Practice” just as I find it, I think it decidedly the best practical work upon medical science I have ever examined. I will not, however, undertake to defend all his positions, nor say, that I think the work faultless. I do not believe, that the “Philosopher’s stone” has yet been found, nor any perfect system of medical practice framed.

My watchword is “Onward and upward;” and I will be shackled by no theory, system, or name, that forbids progression.

In belief and practice I am satisfied, that I do not differ essentially from yourself and a majority of those who are enrolled under the banner of Thomsonism. Many, especially in the State of New York, professedly Thomsonian, to my certain knowledge, employ most of the articles which Dr. Beach recommends, and which, by the *Simon-pures* are considered obnoxious. I might mention examples that would confound the sticklers for “Thomson’s Guide to Health;” but I do not wish to injure the feelings of any one, nor bring any man’s name before the public. I shall, therefore, not do so, unless compelled to, in self-defence.

With your Medical and Surgical Journal I am highly pleased, and will lose no opportunity to commend it, or assist in its circulation.

Yours for reform,

M. F. BASSETT, M. D.

*From the New York Journal of Medicine.*

## EFFICACY OF OX GALL IN REMOVING IMPACTED FÆCES.

BY EDWARD VANDERPOOL, M. D., OF NEW YORK.

I was requested to see W. J. B., aged 40 years, of full habit, who was suffering from pain and great distress in the right iliac region, preventing rest and sleep, and causing constant moaning. He had been confined to bed a fortnight with these symptoms, during which time he had been treated antiphlogistically for peritoneal inflammation; calomel cathartics and castor oil had been repeatedly given, producing only a very slight faecal evacuation each day; cal. and ipecac., and cal. and Dover’s powder had been continued in small does; his mouth had been touched for more than a week; leeches had been repeatedly applied, and a blister at this time was vesicating the part. This afternoon mucus appeared with the discharge, unaccompanied by tenesmus, skin soft and clammy, tongue pale and moist, pulse 80 and soft, natural rotundity and softness of the abdomen, except the right iliac region, which was preternaturally full.

A hardness was here discoverable as of a tumor lying deep in the abdomen, occupying the seat of the cæcum and ascending colon, which was very painful upon pressure. Upon inquiry as to his previous health, he said, that, for the last two and a half or three years, he had been subject to frequent colicky pains, for which he would every week or two take a cathartic dose of calomel at night, and follow it with salts in the morning. A small motion would be the only result, with the invariable feeling of not being relieved. Diagnosis, distended cæcum and ascending to the transverse colon, with incipient ulceration of the mucous membrane at this part. R. Fel. bov. inspissat. gr. iv. Ft. in pil. No. 1.

Gave two pills three times a-day, and enemata of diluted beef's gall to the amount of two quarts night and morning; broth and farinaceous drinks. The first enema extended to the part affected and produced a quantity of scybalous fæcal matter, such as he had not been accustomed to see, with some mucus. Some alleviation of his distressed feelings followed this evacuation. The enema was repeated the next morning and evening, with the effect of an increased quantity of old fæcal matter and less pain afterwards in the iliac region. Considerable exhaustion following the morning enema, it was thought better to omit it in future, and give two pills four times a-day at regular intervals, and use the injection at bed-time. This course was pursued for ten or twelve days, resulting with a voluntary fæcal evacuation in the morning, which had the appearance of long impaction, and a quantity of the same in the evening, believed by the patient to have been by him two years. The abdominal distress abated, as this old fæcal matter passed off, and the mucus daily lessened in quantity. He convalesced steadily, without any other medicine, and was soon discharged cured.

## THE OLD AND THE NEW PRACTICE.

DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir*,—It seems strange how unwilling most people are to relinquish old established customs, and to break away from the course their forefathers have pursued, though a more excellent way is plainly pointed out, and the advantages of a change are not to be mistaken. I have reference more particularly to the practice and patronage of physicians of the old, and those of the new school.

I can, dear sir, speak feelingly on this subject. But a little more than a month since, I followed to the tomb the remains of a beloved brother, who declined, in the short space of four weeks, with consumption. He was treated by one of the old-school physicians. I do not say, that all was not done which their system could do, in such a case; but I do say, that, in my opinion, if he could have enjoyed the advantages of treatment at your Infirmary, or, by a physician of the reformed practice, the result would have been different. At the time of my dear brother's death, a

younger brother was attacked in an exactly similar way. His friends, generally, and the members of the family did not look upon his case as doubtful; but believed that he must decline, in like manner with him we mourned. Why? Because the physician whispered it, and it was soon noised among the neighbors,—“They are a consumptive family.”

I advised my younger brother to resort to your Botanic Infirmary immediately, which he did; and, for the first time since, I met him this day. I found him in such a state of improved health, that the promptings of a warm heart, filled with grateful emotions, caused me to indite to you this epistle. Perhaps the cause of truth and humanity may be served by a statement of the facts, the description of his case, and the treatment, while under your care.

Yours,

Auburn, Nov. 3rd, 1847.

A. J. C.

[ When Mr. Copp came to our Infirmary to be treated, he was suffering under what Dr. Gerhard would call chronic mucous catarrh. He was considerably reduced in strength, had a bad cough, and expectorated copiously. The expectoration was mainly muco-purulent in aspect. Indeed, he might have been taken, by almost any physician not acquainted with auscultation, for one in the very last stage of tubercular consumption; and, with the ordinary Allopathic treatment, probably would have closed his earthly career, as hastily as his brother had just done. A discriminating examination, however, showed us, that the disease, though severe, was essentially confined to the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes of the lungs.

He first came under our care Oct. 5th; and he remained with us ten days. During this time, we gave him five lobelia emetics, and generally preceded them with the vapor bath. These all operated favorably; and, under their influence, he expectorated great quantities of matter scarcely distinguishable from true pus. This was especially the case with the first emetic, which relaxed and prostrated him, during the operation, more than any subsequent one. Besides the emetics, we gave him for intermediate treatment, expectorants, detergents, and sub-tonics. At the expiration of ten days, his cough and expectoration had nearly—not entirely ceased; and he returned home, taking with him, a quantity of such medicines as we had given him, aside from the emetics. We were not a little gratified, when, on Nov. 3rd, four weeks from the time of our commencing to treat him, he came into our office, almost entirely well. Dr. J. V. C. S. may sneer as much as he pleases, at medical treatment by lobelia, cat-mint tea, and other Botanic remedies. We will engage to cure, *with these same remedies*, many patients—not all—whom he and his Allopathic brethren have pronounced incurable; provided we can be allowed to receive them under treatment, before they actually get one foot into the grave. We never think of taking men from the tomb, and restoring them to life; though many in deriding our mode of practice, employ no better argument than merely to adduce the rare facts, that, here and there, where the circumstances are desperate, deaths do occur, in spite of the most efficient restorative agents. Ed. Jour. ]

## MEDICAL COLLEGE IN WORCESTER.

It has been estimated, that *two hundred thousand* dollars are expended every year in Philadelphia, by the medical students who resort to that medical emporium. The Philadelphians understand the advantages to be derived from this source. They have sanctioned the location of *five incorporated* medical Colleges, that are empowered to grant the degree of *doctor in medicine* to their pupils, and also a chartered College of Pharmacy.

We think, therefore, that the members of the Massachusetts Legislature from Worcester will have such a regard to their own interests and the interests of their constituents, as to induce them strenuously to advocate the location of a Medical College in their beautiful village. If the town were to take a right view of this subject, they would give an eligible lot to the College, as soon as it receives a legal existence from the Legislature. The amount of money brought in and expended during each Session of such a College is not inconsiderable.

Such a view of the matter is taken by all enlightened and liberally minded men, and such, we feel assured, compose the community of Worcester. We anticipate, therefore, such a co-operation from them, as will show, that they regard their own true interests.

(C.)

## NEW ENGLAND THOMSONIAN DEPOT.

MR. EDITOR ;—This very extensive and splendid establishment, for the sale of botanic medicines, is now in the full tide of successful experiment. Under the management of its present proprietor, its fame and popularity are increasing; and its central position and easy access to those who visit the city of notions, make it the grand place of resort of our botanic friends. There is scarcely any thing in the line of medicine, but may be found there ;—Syrups, Tinctures, Pills, Powders, Salves, Liniments, Oils, Extracts, Ointments, &c., &c., which may be purchased at wholesale or retail.

This vast laboratory of medicine is a great desideratum, and must be highly appreciated by the botanic public throughout New England. From the immense business done there, I consider it an evident indication, that our glorious cause is steadily progressing, and that our vegetable remedial agents are being preferred to the health-destroying minerals, which are used by our opposing brethren, the Faculty.

I am glad to see our botanic establishments so well patronized. It augurs well for the prosperity of our system of practice, and shows a determination, on the part of the public to aid those who are of us, rather than the regular Apothecary, who is, at the same time, dealing out his mineral poisons, to the infinite injury of those who take them.

I know of some botanic practitioners, who buy their medicines alto-



gether at the Apothecary's. To such I would say, if you have any money to lay out for medicines, let our botanic establishments have the profit.

They are doing, for the cause, what the dealers in mineral poisons will not do; and it behoves us to give our patronage to the former. Dr. Pike, of the above Depot seems determined not to be outdone in the matter of medicines. Every thing demanded, he says, shall be had; and no one coming to his Store shall go away without being accommodated.

I am pleased with his enterprise and zeal, as well as with his undeviating adherence to the cause of medical reform in which we are all engaged.

BOTANICUS.

### A SUGGESTION TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The present number closes the 1st volume of the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal. We have, from the beginning of the year, published some more numbers than we have circulated. We have done this, in the first place, to give us opportunity to supply, to our subscribers, gratis, any numbers which may have failed to reach them, through the carelessness of "Uncle Sam's" travelling or local agents; and, secondly, we have wished for some extra copies for binding, after all our subscribers are fully supplied. Any persons desiring us to replace their missing numbers, will please address us, post-paid, to that effect, before the 1st of January, 1848; as we shall, at that time, commit our remaining copies to the book-binder. Any who may wish to have their copies bound, in connexion with ours, to diminish the expense, can do so, by forwarding them to our Office before the period above-mentioned. We can secure a neat binding in boards, at an expense not exceeding twenty-five cents per copy. Ed. Jour.

### OUR PETITIONS FOR A CHARTER.

We again remind our friends of the importance of returning to us, by the first of January next, the Petitions which they are now circulating for signatures. In the mean time, we hope, that they will spare no pains to swell the list as much as possible. We shall appeal to the next Legislature with confidence of success. Many representatives will go to the "city of notions," instructed to vote *right* on this subject; and we do not believe, that the "illiberal and unrighteous" course of the last Legislature will be repeated the present winter. Ed. Jour.

From the London Lancet.

## VACCINATION.

From the last printed reports of vaccination in France, in 1844, it appears, that there were 582,000 vaccinations for 924,000 births, and 8,812 individuals attacked by small pox. Of the last, 1,175 died. This report, however, does not embrace Mayenne, Vienne, and the Rhone.

## Southern Department.

### TO OUR SOUTHERN SUBSCRIBERS.

We send in this No. of the Journal, a bill to all those who are indebted to us. Quite a number who have not paid and who had formerly been disappointed by the failure of our Southern Journal, wished a delay of payment, till the close of the volume. We now hope they will be convinced, that the paper is firmly established, and that they will immediately forward, to Dr. Newton or to the subscriber, the amount due for the present year, and that in advance for the year 1848.

We hope that the advantages offered to clubs of five subscribers will be improved, and that each one will obtain four more names to return with his name. Our circulation is now quite extensive in South Carolina and Georgia, as our friends in those States are ever ready to do good service in the cause of Medical Reform.

Any bills at par in the State may be sent at our risk by mail.

I. M. COMINGS.

*Petersburg, Va., Dec., 1847.*

### RHUS GLABUM—SUMACH.

The fact which ought to made the sumach receive our special attention, is one which causes it to be seldom used and little noticed. That fact is the abundance with which divine Providence has furnished it to our hands. It seems hard for us to learn, that nothing is made in vain, and that the profusion with which the Creator has supplied us with vegetable remedies, is a sure evidence, that we should use them profusely.

The wish to call the attention of our readers more particularly to this species of the rhus. It is so common, that we will not give a botanical description of the plant. We want often to give a patient a medicine that

will act as a *tonic*, an *astringent*, and a *diuretic*; and, to obtain this remedy, we are accustomed to compound, from three, to five or six different ingredients. Now, how much better it is, to administer the sumach, which has been compounded in the laboratory of nature; as this plant possesses these three properties to a remarkable degree. There is *just enough* astringency, *just enough* tonicity, and *just enough* diuretic power in this article, and none too much of either. But how is it with the compounds which *we* make? There may be too much, or too little, of one, or of another ingredient; and, perhaps, the *whole* together is really *inert*, or possesses a power entirely different from what we wish. Not so, with the sumach *alone*. We might speak of other articles; but, as we have previously called the attention of our fraternity to this subject, we will say no more at present. Our object was to remark, that the berries of the rhus glabrum, steeped in water, and, when cool, given to fever patients, make just that *acid* beverage which nature seems to require, and which they so often demand. Sweetened with a little loaf sugar, it is very grateful to persons suffering with fever, and especially with *internal* fever. It promotes the secretion of the urine, which, in these cases, is generally scanty and high colored. It is a most refreshing refrigerant. It assists nature in bringing about a crisis, which is shown by the increase of urine; for by this means a large quantity of morbid matter is thrown off from the circulation.

There is another part of this plant which is worthy of more attention than has been given to it. We refer to the *great balls*, which are exudations from the leaves, caused by a certain species of gnat, that deposits its eggs in the leaves, and by this act produces a fungus growth. These balls are hollow and contain thousands of small gnats. They are mature, just before the gnats make their escape: and they should then be gathered, cut open, and, the flies being blown out, dried. They are then easily pulverized, and they make a most excellent and powerful astringent and stiptic. (C.)

Petersburg, Va., Dec., 1847.

## CLINIQUE IN THE VIRGINIA INSTITUTE.

Every Saturday at 12 o'clock, since the commencement of our session, we have had an interesting Clinique; and our students are well supplied with patients. We now have some very interesting cases on hand. Prof. Kenworthy, who has charge of the surgical department, bids fair to honor his profession. He has performed some very difficult operations, during the last summer and fall, as his morbid preparations fully prove; and, from the skill manifested last Saturday in operating for *ozæna*, which required the extirpation of nearly all the *os turbinati* of the nose, we must believe, that Prof. K. is possessed of the right *materiel* for the Surgeon. On Monday, he is to remove a leg above the knee. We shall try the Letheon. We will give the result in our next.

Petersburg, Va., Dec., 1847.

(C.)









UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



3 9015 07027 2607



